

# McGill News

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

SUMMER  
2019



## A BOLD BET ON **THE FUTURE**

THANKS TO THE SINGLE LARGEST GIFT IN  
CANADIAN HISTORY, THE MCCALL MACBAIN  
SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE CHANGING  
STUDENTS' LIVES FOR YEARS TO COME



# Show your McGill pride!



## SIGN UP & SAVE!

Get 10% OFF on your next online purchase\* when you sign up to our newsletter!

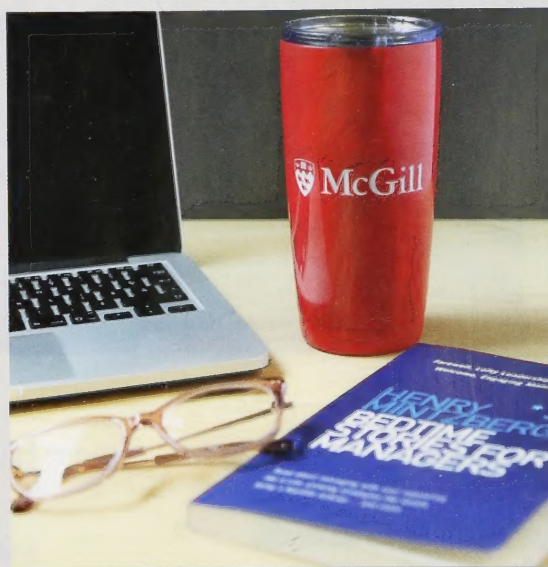
[www.lejames.mcgill.ca/newsletter-signup](http://www.lejames.mcgill.ca/newsletter-signup)

\* For more details, please visit our website.

## FREE SHIPPING

Anywhere in Canada with online purchases of \$50 or more\* before taxes.

\* Course materials and diploma frames are excluded from this offer.



VISIT US IN-STORE OR ONLINE!

[www.lejames.mcgill.ca](http://www.lejames.mcgill.ca)

 /McGillBookstore  @McGillBookstore  @McGillBookstore

LIBRAIRIE / BOOKSTORE

LE JAMES

McGill



## CONTENTS

- 3 EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK
- 4 PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVE
- 5 NEWSBITES
- 9 DISCOVERY
- 40 REVIEWS
- 42 ALUMNI ACTIVITIES
- 47 ALUMNOTES
- 61 IN MEMORIAM
- 64 MCGILL MOMENT



12

## 12 LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

Earlier this year, John and Marcy McCall MacBain made Canadian history with the single largest philanthropic gift in Canadian history. That \$200 million donation is creating the one-of-a-kind McCall MacBain Scholarships and the lives of generations of McGill students will be changed because of it.

*By Daniel McCabe, BA'89*

## 18 PIECING TOGETHER THE PUBLIC POLICY PUZZLE

Government policies affect all of us in all kinds of ways—but the process that leads to their creation can be awfully opaque. McGill's new Max Bell School of Public Policy will pull back the curtain to show its students how policy-making actually gets done—and to help them come up with better ways to craft and implement those policies.

*By Joel Yanofsky, BA'77, MA'81*

## 24 THE AGE OF ANXIETY

It's no secret that university students everywhere are contending with higher rates of anxiety and depression than ever before. McGill is unveiling a new approach to student mental health, one that is designed to nurture a culture of wellness.

*By Daniel McCabe, BA'89*

## 32 CINÉMA QUÉBÉCOIS : LE VENT DANS LES VOILES

À l'ère de Netflix et des bouleversements qu'il provoque, des McGillois s'illustrent au sein d'un cinéma québécois audacieux et résilient.

*Par Jean-Benoît Nadeau (B.A. 1991)*



18



24



32



**SUMMER 2019**  
Volume 100 / No 1

**EDITOR**

Daniel McCabe, BA'89

**SENIOR CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

Brenda Branswell

**MANAGING DIRECTOR,  
COMMUNICATIONS**

Derek Cassoff

**VICE-PRINCIPAL  
(UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT)**

Marc Weinstein, BA'85, BCL'91, LLB'91

**EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS**

Jasreet Kaur, BCom'16

Becca Hoff, BA'17, MIST'19

**DESIGN**

Steven McClenaghan  
Graphic Design, Communications  
and External Relations

**MCGILL NEWS**

1430 Peel Street  
Montreal, QC, Canada H3A 3T3  
**Tel.:** 514-398-5000

**Fax:** 514-398-5293

**Email:** news.alumni@mcgill.ca

**Web:** mcgillnews.mcgill.ca

**Twitter:** @McGillNewsMag

McGill News is published by  
McGill University  
Circulation: 45,000 copies  
Printed in Canada ISSN 0709 9223

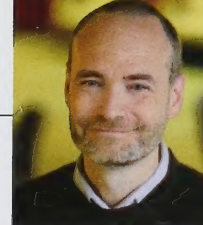
Canadian Publications Mail Product  
Sales Agreement No. 40613661

*Cover photo:*

*Marcy and John McCall MacBain  
by Dario Ayala*

## EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

### "INVENTED BY A CANADIAN"



OWEN EGAN

**H**ey Toronto. It's hard not to notice you've been whooping it up lately. The million plus people who joyfully crammed your downtown area for that Toronto Raptors victory parade on June 17 was a dead giveaway. Can't remember the last time you looked so happy.

By the way, you're welcome.

After the Raptors won the NBA championship on June 13, NBA commissioner Adam Silver took to the court to inform the 26 million or so people who had been watching the game in Canada and the U.S. that "basketball has now come full circle." After all, said Silver, the sport was "invented by a Canadian." That Canadian, of course, was James Naismith, BA 1887.

Born near Almonte, Ontario, roughly a four-and-a-half-hour drive from Toronto, Naismith created basketball in 1891 while working as a phys-ed teacher in Springfield, Massachusetts. During a particularly nasty winter, Naismith's director asked him to come up with a team sport that the students could play indoors. He gave Naismith a two-week deadline.

You're probably familiar with what comes next. The peach baskets that were nailed up at each end of the school's gymnasium. The original two pages of rules crafted by Naismith that would go on to be sold at auction for \$4.3 million in 2010.

"I blew a whistle and the first game of basketball began," Naismith recalled during a radio interview in 1939. It soon became apparent that the new sport was a work in progress. "The boys began tackling, kicking and punching in the clinches. They ended up in a free-for-all in the middle of the gym floor."

It wasn't long, though, before the game began to catch on widely. One of Naismith's former students tried to convince him to call the sport Naismith Ball, but Naismith liked the sound of basketball better. Today, according to the International Basketball Federation, about 450 million people around the world play the game.

Naismith wasn't much of a student in his youth (he dropped out of high school at one point), but his years at McGill seemed to be a turning point. He made the honour roll, served in student government, became a debater for the Literary Society, and played football, rugby and lacrosse. After graduating, he became a physical education instructor at McGill while pursuing a diploma at the McGill-affiliated Presbyterian College.

Later, when Naismith was working as the gymnasium director, basketball coach and campus chaplain at the University of Kansas, he befriended and mentored a student named John McLendon who would also go on to be a pioneering figure in the world of sports. McLendon became the first African-American head coach in any professional sport when he was hired to guide the American Basketball League's Cleveland Pipers in 1962. "Everything I ever did when I was coaching, I can trace back to him," McLendon said of Naismith.

If McLendon had been inspired by Naismith, Naismith himself might well have been inspired by the vibrant sports environment he experienced during his time at McGill. The world's first official hockey team, the McGill Hockey Club, was still quite young, having only made its debut in 1877, a few short years after McGill students took part in the first indoor ice hockey game. The first modern game of football, with its rugby-inspired rules, took place in 1874 between McGill and Harvard. The McGillians of Naismith's era had an inventive approach to sports.

So, like I said, you're welcome Toronto. You too, St. Louis. And you, New England. 🐾

*Daniel McCabe, BA'89*



## A LANDMARK INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW'S LEADERS



OWEN EGAN

EARLIER THIS YEAR, **PRINCIPAL SUZANNE FORTIER**, BSC'72, PHD'76, ANNOUNCED THE CREATION OF THE MCCALL MACBAIN SCHOLARSHIPS AT MCGILL THROUGH A LANDMARK GIFT OF \$200 MILLION FROM JOHN AND MARCY MCCALL MACBAIN AND THE MCCALL MACBAIN FOUNDATION. THIS REPRESENTS THE SINGLE-LARGEST GIFT IN CANADIAN PHILANTHROPIC HISTORY. PRINCIPAL FORTIER, SPOKE TO THE MCGILL NEWS ABOUT THIS REMARKABLE GIFT AND WHAT IT MEANS FOR MCGILL.

### Could you tell us about the vision that led to the creation of this unique program?

The McCall MacBain Scholarships at McGill represent a shared vision between John and Marcy and our University. We are living in an increasingly complex and rapidly evolving world where change is the only constant. We recognize that this requires us to rethink how we shape tomorrow's leaders so they are ready to navigate challenges that will be both formidable and unpredictable.

Not only will the McCall MacBain Scholarships provide financial support for brilliant students pursuing master's or professional degrees, scholars will also benefit from an immersive learning experience that includes mentorship, internships, and workshops. The McCall MacBain Scholarships reinforce our commitment to providing students with an environment where they are encouraged to challenge their assumptions, to explore beyond the current frontiers of knowledge and to help shape the world.

### Why is this partnership so important for McGill?

Firstly, John and Marcy's remarkable gift is an expression of confidence in our University, and in McGill's capacity to attract talented students.

Both John and Marcy have a unique perspective when it comes to higher education. They recognize the importance of providing bright students with the opportunity to nurture their talent and ambition, regardless of their background and financial situation. The McCall MacBain Scholarships program espouses McGill's commitment to offering opportunities that open doors and to ensuring that students are future-ready when they graduate.

John himself is a McGill graduate and he has enormous affection for his alma mater. He was the only student from his graduating class in Niagara Falls to attend McGill. He became very involved in university life during his time here, and he recognizes that it was McGill that allowed him to take on the various leadership roles that prepared him for his professional and personal successes.

### What are the qualities that we can expect to see in McCall MacBain Scholars?

The McCall MacBain Scholarships program will select students not only for their academic excellence, but for their civic engagement, intellectual curiosity and entrepreneurial spirit. We will be seeking students who have a proven track record of collaborating with others and who approach challenges in innovative ways.

These scholarships will bring together students from across Canada, and eventually, from around the world. The McCall MacBain Scholars will represent a diversity of backgrounds, and bring a broad range of experiences and perspectives. Over the years, the McCall MacBain Scholars will create a global community of leaders dedicated to making a meaningful impact on the world.

### Earlier this year, you travelled to different Canadian cities with John and Marcy McCall MacBain to spread the word about these scholarships and the importance of supporting education. What kind of response did you see?

I had the opportunity to meet many alumni who were excited by this incredible gift. They are proud of the confidence that John and Marcy have shown in their alma mater, and look forward to seeing what these young scholars will go on to accomplish. But the excitement was not limited to members of the McGill community. Many people in the broader community came out to learn more about the program and have shared with me their enthusiasm for this exceptional initiative. They understand that the McCall MacBain Scholarships program is not only an investment in McGill, but an investment in Canada, and in our youth and future generations of leaders. I could not think of a better way to kick off our third century and I am excited to see what we will build together! 🌟



# A VERY INVENTIVE MIND



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING

**A**s a creative-minded teenager growing up in Montreal, **LEONARD PINCHUK** came up with a novel solution when his skis wouldn't fit into the trunk of his car.

He cut them in half, added hinges so they folded, and voilà!

Pinchuk, BSc'76, DSc'05, would go on to apply his inventive streak to medical devices in groundbreaking ways with far-reaching impact. Think tens of millions of patients.

For the most part, he's done so under the radar. But earlier this year the spotlight shone on Pinchuk in Washington, D.C., where he and four others received the world's top prize in bioengineering—the 2019 Fritz J. and Dolores H. Russ Prize—for their innovations leading to the widespread adoption of coronary angioplasty or, as it's now called, PCI (Percutaneous Coronary Intervention).

Two of the award recipients, Julio Palmaz and Richard Schatz, invented the stent that became the gold standard for future stents. It was launched on the nylon 12 angioplasty balloon developed by Pinchuk, “the first and only commercially successful balloon,” he says. (When a stent is used to open a blocked artery, a balloon on the tip of the catheter under the stent is inflated, thereby expanding the device and compressing the plaque.)

Pinchuk's other inventions or co-inventions include a helical stent used on most stent grafts, the drug-eluting stent TAXUS® (Boston Scientific), a modular stent graft used to repair abdominal aortic aneurysms, and a micro shunt that is likely to become a game changer in the treatment of glaucoma.

“One of the problems with the early stents is they were very stiff and they couldn't get to the heart,” Pinchuk says. “So I developed the helical wire stent, which was very malleable. It's easy to go around curves.” One of the largest medical device companies uses it.

Pinchuk, who has 128 U.S. patents, is a research professor of biomedical engineering at the University of Miami where he earned his PhD. He has founded or incubated 10 companies, and collaborates with other scientists and engineers. “There's no single device that's only done by one person,” he says.

While developing the drug-eluting stent TAXUS, Pinchuk had to come up with a new material to put on it so that when the drug coating wore off, the body wouldn't realize the foreign entity was there.

“This new material came from my basic understanding of organic chemistry, which I can trace all the way back to David Harpp,” Pinchuk says of the chemistry professor at McGill who had taught him that class. “And it was a very logical chemical structure except no one had ever made it for medical use.”

The implantable material, a novel polymer dubbed SIBS that the body doesn't recognize as foreign, is Pinchuk's proudest achievement.

While the angioplasty balloon and products related to it have had a huge life-saving impact, Pinchuk says, “My favourite patent is the one on the use of SIBS in medicine because it changed the way we think about how the body interacts with foreign materials.”

“He's identified things that change people's lives for the better,” says Bruce Lennox, the dean of McGill's Faculty of Science and a chemist himself. “To me, this is a postage stamp guy.”

David Harpp, the Tomlinson Chair of Science Education at McGill, describes his former student as a modest man “with nothing to be modest about.”

Pinchuk doesn't often think about his achievements. And there are “probably thousands of engineers and scientists who improved upon [them],” he acknowledges.

“I'm proud that I provided the seed and got all this going, but I don't dwell on that. I'm on to other things.”

Spoken like a true inventor. 🐦

**Brenda Branswell**

---

**Leonard Pinchuk recently received the world's top prize in bioengineering**



## CELEBRATING THE BEATTY LECTURE

Several household names have visited McGill as speakers in the **BEATTY MEMORIAL LECTURE** Series since it began in 1954; Margaret Atwood, Francis Crick and Mikhail Gorbachev come to mind. However, the namesake of the lecture, Sir Edward Beatty, isn't quite so well known.

Beatty held two major positions, more or less concurrently: McGill chancellor (1920-1943) and president of the Canadian Pacific Railway (1918-1943). An endowment from his brother

after Beatty's death launched the lecture series, with a mandate to bring international figures to the University (in those days, the guests often travelled by steamboat and stayed at McGill for a month).

Using archives at McGill, the University of Toronto, and the CPR, Robin Koning has been sifting through decades of primary source material related to the history of the lecture series and Beatty himself.

The aim of her work is to commemorate the 65th anniversary of the Beatty Lecture (it's the oldest such series in Canada) by telling its story through a new website, as well

as a curated exhibit of archival material (both will be launched in the fall). Koning points out the parallels between her project and that of the Beatty Lecture itself; both aim to make the ideas of great minds accessible to a wider audience.

"[The Beatty Lecture] was before TED Talks," says Koning. "If you wanted to know what these world thinkers were working on, it really wasn't accessible to the common person. This initiative by McGill was actually quite revolutionary at the time."

To honour this year's milestone, the organizers are bringing back an iconic figure who gave her first Beatty talk four decades ago: Jane Goodall. 🐒

*Becca Hoff, BA'17, MIST'19*

**Renowned primatologist  
Jane Goodall will be the  
2019 Beatty Lecturer**



STUART CLARKE



SARAH GONZALES

## Protecting heritage sites— in outer space

➤ **MICHELLE HANLON**, LLM'17, wants the world to protect the artifacts of our various space missions—the things we've left behind on the Moon and elsewhere. She points to the global effort to save the monuments of ancient Egypt when they were under threat from floodwaters caused by the damming of the Nile River.

"The international community did that because they realized, sure, it's in Egypt, but it's part of human history," says Hanlon, the co-founder of **FOR ALL MOONKIND**, an organization dedicated to protecting the six Apollo Lunar Landing sites and other important sites related to humanity's exploration of outer space.

For All Moonkind's goal is to create an international agreement to preserve human artifacts in space. Last year, the nonprofit made *Fast Company's* list of most innovative companies. Perhaps more importantly, it earned permanent observer status at the United Nations Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

According to For All Moonkind, there are more than 80 historical archaeological sites on the Moon—from the crash site of Luna 2 to Apollo 11's Tranquility Base—and they are at risk of being disturbed or lost as various nations carry out plans to put crews or robots on the Moon.

"I like to compare the first footprint on the Moon to our first upright footsteps in Tanzania," says Hanlon, the associate director of the University of Mississippi's National Center for Remote Sensing, Air and Space Law.

"We protect those footsteps. And that first boot-print on the Moon is a memorial to the greatest technological achievement ever. It should definitely have the same sort of protection and respect that we give our cultural heritage here on our Earth." 🐒

*Tom Kertscher*



# CHAMPIONING EVIDENCE-BASED SCIENCE

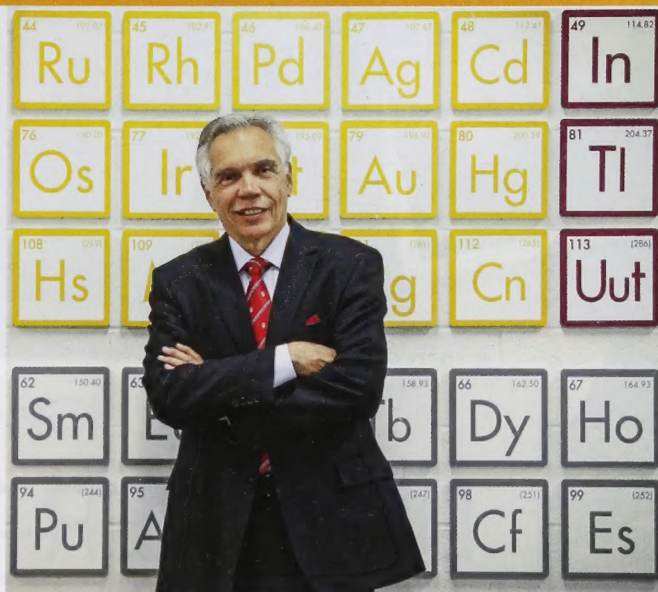
Quackery is hardly new, but in recent years, false claims about science have had some very real consequences—particularly when it comes to pervasive misinformation linking the measles, mumps and rubella vaccine with autism.

The dubious concerns raised by anti-vaxxers have resulted in an alarming vaccination rate drop in Canada, the U.S. and other countries, and a corresponding increase in severe cases of—even deaths from—treatable diseases like mumps and measles.

De-coupling pseudo-science and outright falsehoods from actual science is the self-imposed task taken on by McGill's **OFFICE FOR SCIENCE AND SOCIETY (OSS)**, which recently celebrated its 20th anniversary.

"Our mission is to de-mystify science for the public, separate sense from nonsense, foster critical thinking and make people aware of what's going on in the world of science," says OSS director Joe Schwarcz, BSc'69, PhD'74. "And if all of that works, keep them out of the clutches of charlatans."

The OSS team organizes the annual Trottier Public Science Symposium, publishes science-themed stories on its site and responds to media inquiries. The office also teaches two courses



to overflowing audiences: one on drugs and the other on food. Schwarcz (pictured) regularly addresses the dangers of pseudo-science on his CJAD radio show and in his *Montreal Gazette* column.

Countering fake science news is a never-ending battle, says Schwarcz. "Basically, we're swimming up Niagara Falls."

He estimates that about 30 to 40 per cent of the population are "the ones who swallow all the nonsense," while the rest are "willing to listen to cogent arguments. Those are the ones with whom I think we have a chance of making an impact." 🐦

*François Shalom*



## Famous faces are her canvas

➤ "I wasn't expecting to win an Academy Award," says makeup designer **KATE MORGAN BISCOE**, BA'16. "When I heard our names called [during the Oscar ceremony in February], I thought they were just announcing who worked on the film. Then suddenly, I went, 'Oh, my gosh! We won! I've got to hightail it up to the stage!'"

Biscoe was the makeup division head for the Dick Cheney biopic *Vice*. Most of her work focused on doing makeup for Amy Adams, who played Cheney's wife, but she also worked with other actors—helping to transform Tyler Perry into Colin Powell and LisaGay Hamilton into Condoleezza Rice.

"*Vice* was challenging, because Amy's character undergoes seven decades of aging," Biscoe explains. "Plus, the film was not shot in order; one day, Amy has to be 23 years old, and in the next shot, she's 73."

Biscoe moved to New York in 1992 to try her hand at modelling. When jobs became scarce, she began helping her filmmaking friends by doing makeup for their independent films. She soon found herself working more behind the camera than in front of it.

When hired for a film, Biscoe says she extensively investigates the era in which the story takes place. "I love seeing how socio-political influences shape the way people look."

She completed her degree in French language and literature after taking a multi-year break to establish herself in her career. An Emmy winner for her work on *Behind the Candelabra*, an HBO biopic about Liberace, Biscoe says "I love creating characters. I choose what to visually reveal, or withhold, for the sake of storytelling. So going from literature to film makeup is not as great a leap as everyone imagines." 🐦

*Benjamin Gleisser*

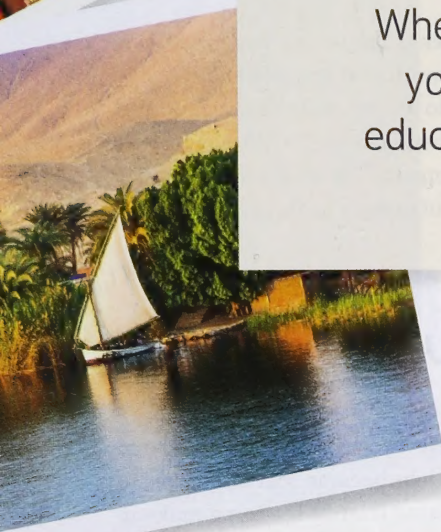




# DISCOVER THE WORLD

Educational travel programs for alumni and friends of McGill

When you travel with our expert tour operators  
you can relax and enjoy a truly memorable  
educational holiday. *That's the McGill advantage.*



## CHOOSE FROM DOZENS OF EXOTIC LOCATIONS

For booking information and destination brochures, visit:

**[alumni.mcgill.ca/travel](http://alumni.mcgill.ca/travel)**

The alumni travel program provides funding to McGill for alumni and student initiatives.



**McGill**

Alumni  
Association





UBISOFT

## MAKING THE UNBELIEVABLE MORE BELIEVABLE

**H**ave you ever played a video game or watched a movie with almost perfectly lifelike computer graphics—save for one unrealistic movement? And it's that one misplaced hair that throws everything off and breaks the immersion? It's an effect called the 'uncanny valley,' and it drives those who work in computer graphics up the wall.

Last year, video game company Ubisoft, through their research and development lab La Forge, joined forces with McGill to create the new NSERC/Ubisoft Industrial Research Chair in Believable Virtual Character Experiences, with the goal of inching computer graphics closer to perfection. Filling that five-year position is associate professor of electrical and computer engineering **DEREK NOWROUZEZAHRAI**, and he is now tasked with finding and training personnel capable of closing the 0.01 per cent gap between uncanny valley and believability.

"We can generate a single picture with no humans in it relatively accurately," says Nowrouzezahrai, pointing out that for years, Ikea catalogue photos have been completely fake and made with computers.

"For a single shot of a human face, if an artist takes four months to go through every pore to get the dimples just right, we might get a shot that's convincing. But a human in motion, with hair blowing in the wind? There are all kinds of subtle, physical interactions we need to nail just right."

It might seem obsessive to a fault to put so much time and effort into incrementally improving computer graphics when so much progress has already been made, but from Superman's CGI-removed mustache in *Justice League*, to Brad Pitt's backwards-aging face in *Benjamin Button*, we've seen countless instances where successful and unsuccessful attempts to produce realistic graphics have had a major impact on the way people appreciate a piece of entertainment.

"As humans, we're programmed to notice anything that's off with a human face, so you need all the details right there," says Nowrouzezahrai.

It's the perfect time for an effort such as this one, he observes, because the field of computer graphics is now in its teenage years, achieving a new level of sophistication. In the past, computer graphics borrowed liberally from physics, linear algebra and computational statistics. But in recent years, the loop has been closed and the strides being made in computer graphics can actually inform other fields of study.

"It's a telltale sign of the growing maturity of graphics as a field," Nowrouzezahrai says. "Gaming is about delivering these graphics with speed, but maybe you can slow down skin modelling techniques and use them to help detect skin cancer? Every student's project under this chair is going to be a little different. They're going to become experts in these areas, and once you're an expert, you have the capacity to grow in any direction you want."

In turn, students will have access to Ubisoft La Forge's unique resources. In the case of a big budget video game title like *Assassin's Creed*, development will typically take years, with hundreds of people contributing, so the five-year plan for the chair isn't considered a particularly long time in the world of gaming.

During that time, Nowrouzezahrai says, Ubisoft might come to his team with a very specific problem—like a lack of realistic reflection on coffee cups in their games—in need of solving.

"This isn't stuff that's happening in a silo tucked away on campus," says Nowrouzezahrai. "Our students will spend time at their studio working really closely with La Forge on these problems. Ubisoft has a wealth of expertise, experience, data and software tools that we couldn't recreate in our lab." 🐦

*Erik Leijon*

**The sinister Joseph Seed appears in Ubisoft's *Far Cry* franchise, one of the video game company's many fictional characters**



## A good day to gamble?

All it takes is an unexpectedly sunny day, or a big win by a local sports team, for some people to bet more on the lottery. Positive changes in a city's mood, resulting from unanticipated happy events in daily life, influence how citizens perceive risk and increase the likelihood of risk-taking behaviours such as gambling, according to a recent study led by assistant professor of psychology **ROSS OTTO**.

While psychological experiments in the lab have shown that shifts in mood can drive changes in risk-taking behaviour, Otto wanted to test whether unexpected positive outcomes had an impact on gambling behaviour in the real world. "There are limitations in lab studies because of the artificiality of the risk-taking," says Otto. "Our study looks at people spending money on lottery tickets. It's a very real behaviour."

**New England Patriots  
quarterback Tom Brady  
during Boston's Super Bowl  
Victory Parade on February 5**



Otto and co-author Johannes Eichstaedt, a computational scientist at the University of Pennsylvania, analyzed day-to-day mood language from 5.2 million Twitter posts from 2012 and 2013, geotagged to six large U.S. cities, to demonstrate that unexpectedly positive sports and sunshine outcomes accurately predicted city-wide good moods. After examining the relationship between fluctuations in city moods and purchase rates of daily lottery tickets in New York and Chicago, the researchers found that feel-good days predicted increased spending on gambling of close to 2.5 per cent per day in particularly responsive neighbourhoods in those cities.

"When a city's mood is good, its residents gamble more, possibly because positive mood fosters unrealistic optimism," says Otto, who will be using big urban data to understand how a city's mood affects gambling behaviour in Toronto in his next study. 🐦

*Mark Witten*



## THE RISKS POSED BY **CANNABIS** TO YOUNG BRAINS

Psychiatry professor **GABRIELLA GOBBI** first observed a possible link between adolescent cannabis use and mood disorders while treating patients at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) over a decade ago. "In my mood disorders clinic, I saw young patients smoking cannabis and becoming depressed. I wondered if the connection was real and had a scientific basis," says Gobbi, a researcher in the Brain Repair and Integrative Neuroscience Program at the Research Institute of the MUHC.

To investigate the link, Gobbi analyzed 11 international studies involving 23,317 individuals to assess the impact of adolescent cannabis use on the risks of depression, anxiety, and suicide ideas and attempts in young adulthood. The results of the study showed that smoking cannabis in adolescence increased the risks of depression by 37 per cent and suicidal behaviour by 50 per cent (there was no association with anxiety).

The researchers deliberately focused on cannabis use among adolescents in good mental health. "We looked at young people who weren't depressed or suicidal before starting cannabis, so our findings have wide relevance for all adolescents," says Gobbi, who led a team of McGill scientists, in collaboration with colleagues at the University of Oxford and Rutgers University.

Gobbi's earlier pre-clinical studies also suggest some possible neurobiological reasons why long-term exposure to cannabis during adolescence could increase susceptibility to depression. She found that THC—the psychoactive compound of cannabis—affects serotonin (a brain chemical that regulates mood) connections in the limbic system. "We know the brain is under development until age 25. Animal studies show that cannabis acts on the limbic system, which controls mood, and can affect the development of the limbic system during adolescence." 🐦

*Mark Witten*



# IS IT GETTING HOT IN HERE?

As a researcher who looks at where different species live and how that's being affected by climate change, assistant professor of biology **JENNIFER SUNDAY** sees global warming as an "uncontrolled natural experiment."

Sunday recently co-authored a study published in *Nature* by a team of scientists from Canada, the U.S., and Norway. Led by Rutgers University ecologist Malin Pinsky, the researchers compared how cold-blooded marine and land species were faring in the face of climbing temperatures. Specifically, the scientists looked at whether these creatures were able to carry on in their normal habitats as things got warmer. The study drew on data gathered from around the world and it calculated safe conditions for 88 marine and 294 land species to determine their sensitivity to warming. The results were surprising.

Marine species are being driven away from their habitats "at almost double the rate as terrestrial species and I wasn't expecting the numbers to be so different," says Sunday. "Just a decade ago, marine species weren't really on the radar for climate responses."

While temperatures tend to be hotter on land than in the water, many land-based species can seek out refuge in shady spots like forests. Sea creatures don't have as many options when it gets warmer. They might have to move on to remain in their preferred water temperatures—and that could have dire implications for communities who rely on the creatures for their livelihoods and as a food source.

Sunday says the study points to the importance of habitat protection for all species. In the case of marine species, that also means ensuring there are safe corridors for travelling if they do need to seek out cooler new homes. 🐠

**Daniel McCabe, BA'89**



## PAIN STUDY FINDS SURPRISING SEX DIFFERENCE

A pain study of mice and humans found a surprising sex difference.

During their second day in the study, the males who were back in the same room where they experienced pain, were stressed—and had increased pain sensitivity as a result—but the females weren't.

"It's a sex difference in stress, and or memory. It's hard to tell the two apart," says Professor **JEFFREY MOGIL**, the E.P. Taylor Chair in Pain Studies in McGill's Department of Psychology and senior author on the study.

Either the males are remembering the pain and the females aren't, or both are remembering it, but only the males are getting stressed about it, Mogil says.

The study, led by researchers at McGill and the University of Toronto Mississauga, included an experiment that used a drug to block memory in the mice. It suggests perhaps it's just the males who remember the pain, says Mogil. "Maybe this is a sex difference about memory. And the memory is what produces the sex difference in stress.

"If so, that's pretty interesting just because more and more people are taking seriously the notion that chronic pain is a memory problem. And I guess these data would suggest that that might be true."

Mogil has long advocated using female mice in studies—most studies still use male mice.

"If you only study male animals, you're going to only understand male biology and... come up with drugs that kill pain [in] men," he says.

"We have an ethical duty to study pain patients and most pain patients are women, in fact." 🐭

**Brenda Branswell**

Global warming is having an unexpectedly harsh impact on marine creatures





# LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

JOHN AND MARCY MCCALL MACBAIN HAVE BUILT AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS CHAMPIONS OF SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AROUND THE WORLD. BY COMMITTING \$200 MILLION TO AN AMBITIOUS NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH MCGILL, THE MCCALL MACBAINS HAVE MADE THEIR BOLDEST MOVE YET.

---

by Daniel McCabe, BA'09



When John McCall MacBain turned 60 last year, his friends knew exactly what to get him for the milestone birthday. They pooled their resources and presented him with something memorable.

Was it a flashy sports car? A Seychelles getaway? “What they gave me,” says McCall MacBain, “was a scholarship.”

Not for him, but named in his honour. It was something that would benefit complete strangers. The John McCall MacBain Scholarship forges a link between two institutions that McCall MacBain himself once attended as a student. It gives McGill alumni the opportunity to pursue graduate studies at Wadham College at the University of Oxford.

“My friends know how passionate I am about scholarships,” says McCall MacBain, BA’80, LLD’14. “They thought it would be the best present for me. And it was.”

Franca Gucciardi is the chief executive of the McCall MacBain Foundation, but for the 13 years before that, she was the CEO of the Loran Scholars Foundation, the national organization behind Canada’s largest merit-based scholarships for undergraduate students.

“I joke around and say I’m a scholarship nerd and I am,” says Gucciardi. “There aren’t that many of us. John is the donor version of that.”

When she was the head of the Loran Scholars Foundation, Gucciardi regularly made the case for the program to a wide range of prospective donors. “Of all the people I was pitching to and bringing into the organization, he is probably the one who had the best intuitive sense of what a scholarship can do and the difference it can make in someone’s life. He has a love for it.”

## HISTORIC GIFT

He and his wife Marcy McCall MacBain have been sharing that love in a dramatic way. In a move that made national headlines in February—and prompted the premier of Quebec to tweet “WOW!”—the couple formally announced the creation of McGill’s new McCall MacBain Scholarships, backed by a \$200 million commitment from their foundation. That represents the single biggest philanthropic donation in Canadian history.

It wasn’t the first time that the McCall MacBains made the news for their support of scholarships.

They attracted international media attention in 2013 when their foundation committed £75 million (roughly \$120 million in Canadian dollars at the time) to support the Rhodes Scholarships. A portion of the gift helped enable the program to expand into new countries. It was the largest donation made to the program since the scholarships were first established in 1903.

The foundation has also played a pivotal role in the creation of the Kupe Scholarships at the University of Auckland—a program for exceptional master’s level students in New Zealand. It has been a key supporter of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships for top master’s students in South Africa. It has been a vital ally for the Loran program in Canada.

The McCall MacBains weren’t just writing cheques for these various initiatives. They were paying close attention to how they functioned and to what they did well.

“We felt now was the time to take what we’ve learned and to use that to build something new,” says Marcy McCall MacBain.

“We want to take some of the best elements of each of these programs,” says John. “Let’s put that all together and create something as close to perfect as possible. And we want to do that here, with McGill.” >



John McCall MacBain was the president of the Students' Society of McGill University in 1979-80

(left) John and Marcy McCall MacBain walk through the Stephen Leacock Building in February, the day before announcing the creation of the McCall MacBain Scholarships





There is nothing quite like the McCall MacBain Scholarships in Canada.

The program will eventually support up to 75 McGill students at a time, pursuing their degrees in either master's or professional programs. The first McCall MacBain Scholars will arrive at McGill in the fall of 2021.

For the first two years, all McCall MacBain Scholars will be from Canada, but the program will include international students after that. Once the program is in full swing, two-thirds of the scholars will be Canadian and a third will be from other countries. The scholarships will be similar to Rhodes Scholarships in that students will apply for a scholarship instead of applying to McGill directly. Rhodes Scholars go to Oxford. McCall MacBain Scholars will go to McGill.

The scholarships will cover tuition and fees, along with a stipend for living expenses. McCall MacBain Scholars will also have access to hands-on learning experiences, one-on-one mentorship, special events involving global thinkers—all with an eye towards developing their leadership skills.

"We're also going to invite other McGill students to join us in some of these things," says John. "This is meant to be a community building effort across the campuses, and not just something that affects an isolated little part of McGill," adds Marcy.

## A LIFE-CHANGING MOMENT

"One of the questions we've been hearing is why are we doing this at the master's level?" says Marcy. "I think there are a few critical times in a person's life and this is one of them. I know what it feels like to come out of an undergraduate degree with school debt." While she and her husband now oversee a foundation that has committed more than \$400 million to a variety of initiatives, they both grew up modestly in small towns in Ontario.

"You feel that the possibilities are more limited when the pressure is there to pay back your student loans," says Marcy. "We want to free people up, so that they can focus more clearly on what they want to do next. We want to encourage people to take that extra leap, to accelerate their learning."

"The Loran Scholarships are very strong on the undergraduate side," says Gucciardi. "We have the Vanier Canada program and the Trudeau Foundation program for doctoral students. But we saw that there was something missing in this landscape for students at the master's level and in professional programs."

One of the big reasons why John McCall MacBain is such a fervent proponent for the life-changing possibilities offered by scholarships is that he experienced it for himself.

"I was a scholarship student at McGill," says John. "When I came here from Niagara Falls, I had a James McGill Entrance Scholarship and it was one of the things that prompted me to come to McGill. Later on, I was fortunate enough to receive a Rhodes Scholarship, and that was the only way I would have been able to afford to go to Oxford. After that, I received a Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation Scholarship to go to Harvard Business School. At least one of those [degrees], and perhaps two or three of them, were only possible for me because of those scholarships."

**(top left) The McCall MacBains with Montreal mayor Valérie Plante and Principal Suzanne Fortier**

**(right) The McCall MacBains at the press conference for the McCall MacBain Scholarships**



## THE KING OF CLASSIFIEDS

Before any of those university experiences took place, back when he was still a high school student, two exciting things happened to McCall MacBain during the same spring. He was hired as a swimming instructor for the city of Niagara Falls and he won a high school Spanish competition, earning a trip to Ottawa as the prize.

When he asked his new employers for a week off in order to take the Ottawa trip, the response caught him off-guard. “They fired me.”

McCall MacBain’s response to that firing was probably just as surprising to the people who ran the swimming program. He became their competition. He took out a \$1 million insurance policy to cover potential liabilities and arranged to use his neighbours’ pools for the swimming lessons he offered. He earned enough to help pay for his future expenses as a McGill student. “I was always an entrepreneur at heart.”

Fast forward a decade or so and he proved it—in a big way.

While working as a marketing executive, McCall MacBain frequently travelled to Toronto for business. He started noticing a certain publication at newsstands in the city and became intrigued.

“*The Toronto Star* was selling for 25 cents at the time and right next to it was something called *Auto Trader* and it was selling for \$1.25,” recalls McCall MacBain. *Auto Trader* targeted people who were looking to either purchase or sell a vehicle. It had a small staff, and its advertisers and readers were both keenly interested in the publication. “I started thinking, that’s an interesting business model.”

He soon bought three similar Montreal-based publications in 1987, and then kept on buying. >

---

“We want to encourage people to take that extra leap, to accelerate their learning.”





Within a year, he and his partner owned most of the *Auto Trader*-type publications produced in Canada.

"People bought newspapers for the local news and the international news and the sports section," says McCall MacBain. "Nobody bought it to find an ad for a 10-ton truck. Why take out a teeny ad in a newspaper when we could offer you a big ad with a photo of the truck you want to sell?"

McCall MacBain quickly concluded that expanding into the U.S. would be difficult. "The classified advertising sector in the U.S., and auto trading especially, had already been consolidated. So we jumped to Europe instead. And then to the rest of the world. At one point, we were essentially controlling the movement of used goods in Russia, which was very important back then because they had no storefronts."

Along the way, McCall MacBain earned the nickname "the King of Classifieds" and the company, Trader Classified Media, grew to include more than 350 print titles and 50 internet sites in 23 countries.

And then he decided to move on. The company was sold in five pieces (Yellow Pages bought Trader's North American assets). John and Marcy decided to use the money to create their foundation in 2007. This May, the McCall MacBains officially signed on to The Giving Pledge, promising to give more than half their wealth to philanthropic or charitable causes (The Pledge was founded in 2010 by Bill and Melinda Gates and Warren Buffett).

When they initially launched their foundation, John admits he might have been a little too ambitious. "At first, I was saying we should do philanthropy for the greatest causes, but we came to realize that maybe it wasn't so effective to be throwing money towards a problem if we weren't the right solution for it. We started to look at where we could make a real difference."

As the foundation went through two strategic reviews, John says he was influenced, in part, by counsel he received from the foundation's former chair, Donald Johnston, BCL'58, BA'60, LLD'03. As the former secretary-general of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, Johnston argued that one of the most effective ways to tackle the world's most pressing problems was by supporting education.

The message resonated. The McCall MacBains were already aware of how they had both benefited from their educations. Marcy has degrees from McMaster University, the London School of Economics and Oxford, and is a senior research fellow at Oxford's Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and a collaborator with Oxford's Centre of Evidence-Based Medicine.

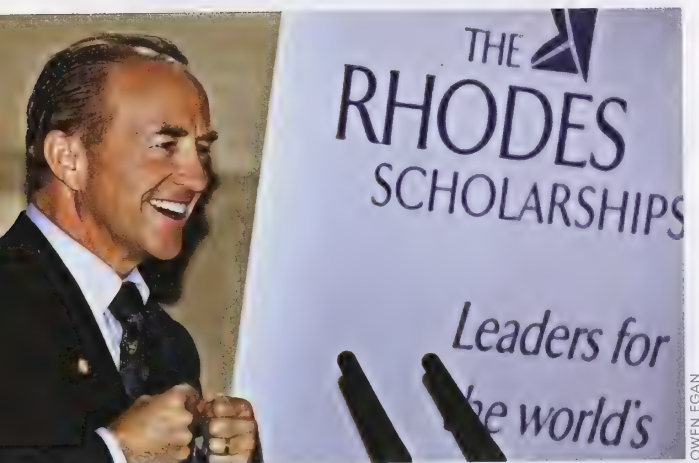
The foundation now focuses about 70 per cent of its efforts towards education and scholarships.

#### FLAGSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

The McCall MacBains recently travelled across Canada (along with Gucciardi, Principal Suzanne Fortier and others) to spread the word about the scholarships to the university and business communities. "I was very pleased with the response that we got from other universities," says John. "They didn't see this as competition. They saw it as a great opportunity for their own students and that's really important."

"McGill was the perfect institution to create this flagship scholarship for Canada," says Gucciardi. It's always had a very strong international reputation. It obviously has very strong academic programs in all faculties at the graduate level. It had the professional schools we were looking for."

"We fundamentally believe that talent is everywhere, but opportunities are not," says Marcy. "We'll be working with a network of people on the selection committees [for the scholarships] to really focus on detecting potential. We'll be looking for hidden gems."







ALYSSA BISTONATH

John McCall MacBain spoke about the McCall MacBain Scholarships at an event in April in Toronto hosted by the Economic Club of Canada. Pictured with him are (l to r) Sevaun Palvetzian (the event's moderator) and McCall MacBain Foundation CEO Franca Gucciardi

(bottom left) In 2013, the McCall MacBain Foundation committed £75 million to support the Rhodes Scholarships

But that's not an easy thing to do, says John McCall MacBain. In his long involvement with the Rhodes program (he is a trustee emeritus with the Rhodes Trust), he has seen that it isn't always a level playing field. Big-name universities with plenty of resources are in a position to give their students some extra help when they apply for prestigious scholarships. Some students with impressive looking resumes benefitted from having parents who had the money to pay for the international learning experiences listed on those CVs.

"We want to create a selection system and a recruitment system that reaches the students who should be applying for a scholarship like this," says Gucciardi. She has some insight into what it's like to be a young person brimming with potential but who doesn't see scholarships as a part of her future.

Gucciardi attended high school in a low-income neighbourhood in Toronto and no one in her family had ever graduated from university. "I had a guidance counsellor tap me on the shoulder and say, 'I want you to apply for this new Loran Scholarship.' And I said no. And she said she wasn't giving me a choice. That moment changed everything for me."

"We will take the time to do this right," says John. "We want to seek out people from very different backgrounds."

"We want to have a community of people who are diverse in all sorts of ways—including the fields that they choose to study in. These scholarships don't just cover one faculty or one area of study," says Marcy.

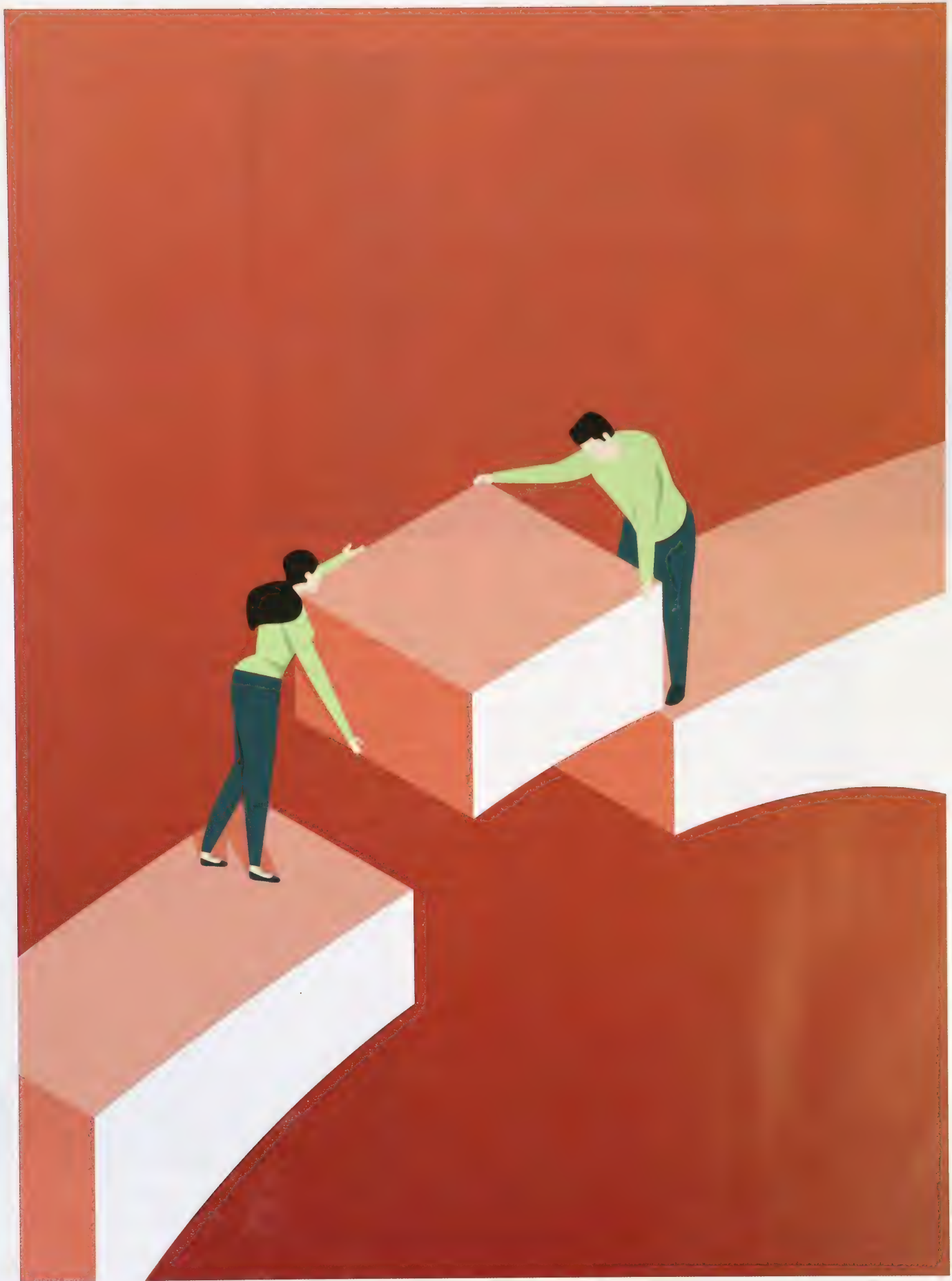
"If one of our scholars ends up working in an Indigenous community as a teacher, how do you measure that against someone who is a judge or someone who is a fantastic journalist for *La Presse*?" says John. "We want to see our scholars become leaders in all professions."

The day before they make Canadian history with their press conference for the McCall MacBain Scholarships, John and Marcy are excitedly chatting about a different set of scholarships that they support.

The McCall Huron County Scholarships and the MacBain Niagara Falls Scholarships target high school students in the places where the couple grew up. Marcy mentions a letter of recommendation for one of the recipients from his martial arts instructor. "He wrote, 'What I want for him is that he continues to dream big.' That's the beauty of these opportunities. They help people to dream big."

The McCall MacBains take obvious delight in supporting those kinds of dreams. And if that makes them scholarship nerds, so be it. 🐼







# PIECING TOGETHER THE PUBLIC POLICY PUZZLE

THE PEOPLE WHO DEVELOP PROMISING POLICY IDEAS OFTEN DON'T KNOW HOW TO IMPLEMENT THEM. THE PEOPLE IN CHARGE OF RUNNING GOVERNMENTS ARE USUALLY TOO BUSY TO DISCOVER THOSE PROMISING POLICY IDEAS. MCGILL'S NEW MAX BELL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY AIMS TO BRIDGE THAT DIVIDE.

*by Joel Yanofsky, BA'77, MA'81*

**W**hen Christopher Ragan and Christy Clark recently met to talk about McGill's new school of public policy, they found themselves agreeing on a range of prospective policy issues—from compromising on pipelines to the necessity of revamping federalism. But the issue the economics professor and the former premier of British Columbia seemed to agree on most was the seemingly unbridgeable gap between their two worlds.

"I started my career with a standard academic notion," says Ragan, an associate professor of economics who has taught at McGill for 30 years. "You come up with an idea, put it out in a paper, assume the world will discover it and know what to do with it. Then you move on to the next idea."

Unfortunately, the people who have the power to act on those ideas rarely stumble upon them.

Those who are charged with governing "often don't have the time, space or training to see outside their own silos, to look across old solutions and concoct new ones," says Clark.

Enter the Max Bell School of Public Policy. Funded with a \$10 million donation from the Calgary-based Max Bell Foundation, it is now in business to try to bridge the daunting gap between thinking about policy and making it.

Named director of the Max Bell School in the fall of 2017, Ragan was starting from scratch. "All we had was the gift from the Max Bell Foundation, a commitment from McGill and three co-chairs on an advisory board. We didn't have a space, a faculty or a curriculum. What we had was a blank piece of paper."

Ragan spent most of the two-year lead-up to the School's official fall launch filling in the blanks, starting with a newly designed curriculum for the School's 11-month Master of Public Policy (MPP) program. At the same time, Ragan focused on bringing together a "teaching team" from both sides of the policy divide.

In addition to the typical core courses you'd expect to find in similar schools and curriculums—say, Global Macroeconomics or Ethics, Rights and Law—Ragan introduced Policy Case Studies. These are intensive, week-long courses taught by seasoned practitioners like Brian Topp, BA'83, former Alberta premier Rachel Notley's first chief of staff, and Louis Lévesque, former deputy minister of Transport Canada, who will be coming in to analyze, respectively, Alberta's climate policy and the Lac Mégantic railway catastrophe.

From the start, the idea was to reach out to people capable of taking deep dives into real-world policy-making. "People who've been in the trenches," Ragan says. ➤



## A REAL-WORLD MINDSET

While he doesn't downplay the importance of theory—he's an academic, after all—Ragan understands that a mastery of theory isn't enough for someone who hopes to see their policy ideas actually get implemented. For instance, the MPP program will conclude next summer with Policy Labs, which will have small groups of students working closely with a private, public or non-profit organization.

"We view the Max Bell MPP as a professional degree," Ragan says. "Our students are going to be very much immersed in how real-world policy works. What makes this school different from other public policy schools is it's going to be much more practical."

It helps that Ragan has, on occasion, been on both sides of the policy divide, including an 18-month stint in government as a special advisor to the federal minister and deputy minister of finance. He was also once a special advisor to the governor of the Bank of Canada. "My three different times away from McGill were all spent in the wonderfully exotic city of Ottawa. Can you believe that?"



**Christopher Ragan**



**Christy Clark**

For Clark, it's this kind of crossover experience—along with McGill's reputation as "one of the best universities in the world"—that persuaded her to serve as one of the co-chairs on a 13-member advisory board that also includes former prime minister Paul Martin. "There just aren't that many academics in the country—in fact, I don't think there are any—who've been as engaged in practical public policy as Chris," Clark says.

Another thing the career academic and career politician ended up agreeing on is that some gaps are bound to be harder to bridge than others. "One wants things to be perfect and one knows they can't be," Clark says. "Perfection is not possible in public policy."

Neither is simplicity. "Pick any issue you want—assisted dying, cannabis legislation, budget deficits, carbon-pricing—any one," says Ragan. "They're all super complex. What we want to make sure we're studying most of all at Max Bell is complexity."

## CONTENDING WITH COMPLEXITY

With that theme in mind, the Max Bell School introduced another innovation—the Complexity Seminar. It's also a one-week course, taught by practitioners. But rather than focus on a single policy, it flips the script, examining the impact a single type of complexity has on a variety of policies. "These seminars are meant to build expertise in what makes all policies difficult to implement," Ragan explains.



Kevin Page is slated to teach one of the eight complexity seminars offered in this year's MPP program. His is on transparency, an issue he knows well, perhaps painfully well. In 2008, after almost three decades as a civil servant and an economic advisor to then prime minister Stephen Harper, Page was appointed Canada's first parliamentary budget officer (PBO). His job, in essence, was to speak truth to government, particularly on issues of finance and spending.

This meant making information that usually got no further than the federal cabinet table readily and publicly available. In costing a war, for instance, the PBO was tasked with pricing everything from fighter planes to death and disability payments for veterans. In this and other matters, Page's economic forecasts didn't always match those put out by the government he was appointed by. Transparency suddenly got complicated.

Page, who left the PBO position in 2013, admits that when Ragan approached him about tackling transparency once more he hesitated. "I admit I found the idea incredibly challenging," Page says. "Writing the syllabus, I had a headache 24/7."

Still, he accepted the challenge, viewing it as a way to guide, perhaps even push, the next generation of public service leaders in Ottawa and elsewhere into facing the complexities that go hand-in-hand with lifting the curtain on policy-making. "A lot of academics would shy away from taking this kind of thing on," Page says. "But at Max Bell, the idea is go straight into the fire and see if you can put it out. Or at least understand it."

Kevin Page



Fortunately, not everything's complicated. The path from the Max Bell Foundation to the Max Bell School of Public Policy could hardly be more straightforward. It starts, of course, with the namesake of both institutions.

Max Bell graduated from McGill in 1932 with a degree in commerce and went on to have successful careers as a Calgary-based newspaper publisher, oil man, rancher and racehorse owner. Before his death in 1972, he also set up a philanthropic foundation and mandated that 30 per cent of all the grants it distributed go to his alma mater.

---

**"At Max Bell, the idea is go straight into the fire and see if you can put it out. Or at least understand it."**

"Max was an avid admirer of all things McGill," says David Elton, former president of the Max Bell Foundation and, currently, a member of the Max Bell School's advisory board. "I know he felt he'd received a world-class education at the university, one that had set him up for life."

In 2005, the Max Bell Foundation proposed all its grants to McGill be directed specifically towards issues of public policy. Two years ago, those grants were further consolidated and were dedicated exclusively to the creation of a new school of public policy. "I've been wondering all the time I've been at McGill why we don't have one," Ragan says.

The foundation's commitment to the Max Bell School will be reviewed and renewed on a ten-year basis. "The gift is not in perpetuity," explains Elton. "But so far Chris and his colleagues have exceeded my expectations in terms of how much of a good start the School has gotten off to." ➤



## STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Jennifer Welsh has based a lot of her expectations for the Max Bell School on the 30 or so students now taking part in the inaugural MPP program. Last January, Welsh joined the School to teach a core course on Global Political and Policy Landscape. She was also part of the admissions committee, where she had the chance to assess two-thirds of the 190 applications that came in.



Jennifer Welsh

“What was really surprising was their global reach. These are people already effectively working in development in their countries, whether that be Jordan or Pakistan or Peru. They’re already thinking about policy-making,” she says. Welsh, now McGill’s Canada 150 Research Chair in Global Governance and Security, is no stranger to difficult discussions over policy matters. From 2013 to 2016, she served as special advisor to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

Mauricio Horn, 42, is one of the Max Bell School’s first students. A professor of pedagogy and sociology of education in Argentina, he grew up during his country’s dictatorial regime and was understandably wary of the role government plays in shaping public policy.

As a result, he became an academic, taking what he saw as “an unpolluted path.” Eventually, though, he found himself working in government, developing policies for his country. Even so, he leapt at the opportunity to spend his 2019 sabbatical year at the Max Bell School, pursuing a master’s degree when he already had a PhD.

“I had been trained in academia,” he explains in an email, “and had jumped later into policy-making without specific competence in the field as a practitioner.... The MPP program is a way to take my career to a higher ground.”

Charlotte Reboul, BA’17, a native of France who has lived in Montreal for the last decade, has a bachelor’s degree in international development studies, political science and management from McGill. The 23-year-old also views the MPP program as a way to reach the next level of her career. She recently started her own non-profit organization aimed at strengthening the status of young women in society.

In an email, she writes, “I’m ecstatic about... being one of Max Bell’s first MPP cohort, where I can strengthen both my academic core in public policy and my hands-on problem-solving skill.”

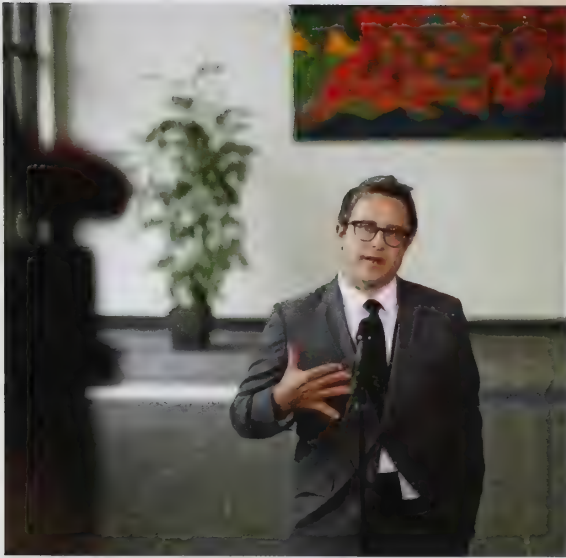
As Welsh points out, “It’s a diverse group of students. Many are already engaged with their communities. They already have a lot of on-the-ground experience in public policy. Now they want to think about how they can be more effective. It’s going to make for a very interesting cohort.”

## THE DIGITAL FRONTIER

Like Welsh, Taylor Owen came to the Max Bell School last January to teach a core MPP course—in his case, Information and Media Literacy. According to Owen, it’s one of those rare policy issues where the gap between academia and government isn’t quite so wide. In fact, Owen was invited to make a presentation about his work to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, BA’94, and the federal cabinet last summer.

“The internet has been left ungoverned from the start and governments really need help from people outside—whether through media or activism—to navigate it. In more established policy areas, governments have decades of experience and a ton of internal capacity. But this area—whether it’s dealing with AI or how to govern Facebook and Google—is all new,” says Owen, who currently holds the Beaverbrook Chair in Media, Ethics and Communication at Max Bell.





Taylor Owen

Owen sees himself as a public scholar and intends to look beyond the gap between thinking about policy and making it. "That's because the public needs to be engaged as well. The advantage of being in on the ground floor at a school like Max Bell is you can do work that isn't isolated or esoteric. If the public doesn't buy into a new policy conversation, none of what we do is going to matter anyway."

Owen's plans for public outreach include a discussion of the influence of digital technology on the integrity of elections, specifically this fall's federal election. He's also sure of one thing:

"When a big research university like McGill starts a school like this and enters into the public policy space you know it's going to generate momentum and excitement."

Ragan also has lots of reasons to be excited about Max Bell's future. A \$5 million gift from Garvin Brown, BA'91, chairman of the Forman-Brown spirits company, and his wife Steffanie Diamond Brown, established an endowed Chair in Democratic Studies at the School.

Ragan expects to "raise more money for more endowed chairs," to add one person to Max Bell's faculty every year for the next five years, and to support and house new research opportunities like Welsh's Centre for International Peace and Security Studies. Most of all, the plan is to keep the School growing.

"We're spreading the word about Max Bell," Ragan says, "and true to our mandate, we're going to keep engaging in complex conversations." 🐦

*Joel Yanofsky is a Montreal-based writer and the winner of two National Magazine Awards. His work has appeared in The Walrus, Canadian Geographic, The Montreal Gazette and The Toronto Star.*



McGill professor and former journalist Andrew Potter, BA'93 (left) moderated a Max Bell panel discussion in Toronto last November on media in the digital age that also involved David Skok, CEO of *The Logic*, journalist Jen Gerson and *Globe and Mail* editorial page editor Tony Keller



# THE AGE — of — ANXIETY

A GROWING NUMBER OF STUDENTS AT UNIVERSITIES ARE FACING FORMIDABLE MENTAL HEALTH CHALLENGES—ANXIETY, DEPRESSION AND LONELINESS. MCGILL IS ADOPTING A NEW APPROACH TO SUPPORTING ITS STUDENTS, ONE DESIGNED TO NURTURE A CULTURE OF WELLNESS.

*by Daniel McCabe, BA'89*

**A**s virtually everyone who studies or works at a university knows all too well, an alarmingly high number of students are struggling with serious mental health challenges like anxiety and depression.

Six thousand McGill students reached out for mental health assistance through the University's Student Services last year. Over the past five years, there has been a 35 per cent increase in the number of McGill students seeking that type of help.

It isn't just happening here.

According to the 2016 National College Health Assessment Survey of 44,000 Canadian postsecondary students, close to 20 per cent were contending with anxiety or depression. A survey of more than 25,000 Ontario university students by the American College Health Association in 2016 pointed to rising rates of anxiety (a 50 per cent increase) and depression (up by 47 per cent).

"There has definitely been a change since I started teaching here in the early 2000s," says Dean of Students Christopher Buddle, a professor of natural resource sciences. "Anxiety, mental health—these were certainly issues that we saw some students dealing with, but not in the same everyday manner. For most professors now, this is something that comes up regularly. In my role as dean of students, it comes up every day."

Nancy Heath, BA'84, a James McGill Professor in the Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, is a leading authority on the mental health challenges that students cope with and the methods they use—healthy and not—for dealing with the stress and anxiety they face.

"People ask me all the time, 'Is [the level of anxiety] really higher for students than it used to be?' There's no question it's higher."

Heath points to research on the subject that dates back to the 1930s, and anonymous survey data related to university students and their mental health. "What we clearly see is a higher endorsement of symptoms of anxiety and depression [in recent years]. The degree to which students are indicating real distress levels, that is significantly higher and it has absolutely risen."

## THE NEED TO REASSESS

Over the last few years, as requests from students for help with their mental health challenges kept growing, McGill Student Services engaged in an in-depth evaluation of how it was able to respond to that demand. Though the University had significantly increased the size of its counselling staff, it became clear that more needed to be done.

The process involved surveying McGill students to gauge their thoughts and concerns, focus groups to dig for more information, site visits to other post-secondary institutions across the country to get a sense of best practices, and a consultative process that involved deans, faculty, staff and students at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. "It really was a University-wide process," says Vera Romano, BA'96, MEd'00, PhD'07, the director of McGill's new Student Wellness Hub.

"The feedback we got was that once students accessed our services, they were actually very happy with the services," says Romano. McGill's team of mental health care experts—counselors, psychologists, psychiatrists and others— ➤





© 2019 MCGILL





generally received high marks for their work. “But students weren’t happy with how they accessed our services.”

For one thing, wait times were too long. Sometimes it could take months before a student who wanted help with a mental health problem could see somebody. For another thing, students found McGill’s approach to offering assistance for mental health concerns baffling.

“It could be extremely confusing for everybody involved,” admits Romano, the former director of McGill Counselling Services. Aside from Counselling Services (with its counsellors, psychologists and social workers), there was also Mental Health Services (with psychiatrists and psychotherapists) and the Student Health Service (with physicians and nurses). “You had professionals providing very similar things [to students], but they were providing them in very different ways, with different processes and procedures,” says Romano. “It was very fragmented.”

Even professors were perplexed. “They didn’t always know how to connect students to us,” says Romano. “A student who is dealing with something should not be trying to figure out, ‘Do I need a psychiatrist, do I need a nurse, do I need a counselor?’ We’re trying to remove that.”

## A NEW APPROACH

The Student Wellness Hub, which will be formally launched this fall, will be the focal point for both mental and physical health services for students from now on. The different units in Student Services that dealt with mental and physical health services for students are all being folded into the Hub to make things simpler and more streamlined.

It’s the central component to a new approach to mental health services that is supported by a \$14 million investment (The Rossy Foundation has been a key source for some of that funding).

Five trained staffers—two more than before—will be available at the Hub’s check-in area to talk to the students who come in and to advise them about which health professional at the Hub is in the best position to provide help. “We’ve introduced drop-in appointments for counseling, so a student can walk in, and if they have something that is timely—they just experienced a painful break-up, for instance—they don’t have to wait for weeks or months,” says Romano.

Martine Gauthier, the executive director of Student Services, says that one of the chief findings of the evaluation period that led to the creation of the Hub was the importance of early intervention. “When we looked at the data, we noticed that, for most students, one or two sessions with one of our professionals was enough to help them get back on track.



—  
“People ask me all the time,  
‘Is [the level of anxiety] really  
higher than it used to be?’  
There’s no question it’s higher.”  
—



CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

“I’m not talking about a serious mental illness here,” says Gauthier, “but the sorts of challenges that students regularly face. You’re worried about failing a course. Your boyfriend wants to break up. There is tension with a roommate. These are the sorts of things that can spiral after a while if you don’t know how to deal with them. And then it just becomes a bigger problem and starts affecting other parts of your life. If you can find a sympathetic sounding board early on and learn some healthy coping mechanisms, it can make a huge difference.”

While the Hub will be playing an essential role, Gauthier says it represents only one of many changes. “What we really want to do at McGill is build a culture of wellness here.”

Armaghan Alam, BSc’19, welcomes that new approach. Alam, who just completed his undergraduate degree in anatomy and cell biology, was a mental health commissioner for the Students’ Society of McGill University and was the chair of support services for McGill’s student-run Peer Support Centre.

“We learn how to write papers here, how to become informed, how to look at things critically. Those things are all important, but so is being resilient when it comes to mental health,” says Alam. “I think McGill has a responsibility to teach us how to be resilient. Because things don’t necessarily get easier after you graduate. If McGill really wants its graduates to become leaders in their fields, they’ll need to be resilient. They’ll need to be ready for whatever the world is going to throw at them.”

“In the last few decades, we’ve all kind of accepted that our physical health is something we have to work at,” says Romano. “We know we have to engage in some form of physical activity. We have to pay attention to our diet. What the evidence is showing is that mental health is very similar to physical health. A lot of it is about adopting good habits. We have to help our students form those healthy habits, because they’re not easy habits to form.”

Romano points to one example. “One of the things we see the most is that our students don’t sleep enough, and sleep deprivation is really a very detrimental thing for our mental health.” McGill students are driven to succeed academically and too many of them think that skimping on sleep is one way to do it. “We want them to see that getting the proper amount of sleep is linked to their success. Those two things are not in competition with each other. They actually support each other.” >

---

**(from l to r) Nancy Heath  
is an expert on the  
mental health challenges  
that students face**

**Dean of Students  
Christopher Buddle**

**Vera Romano is the  
director of McGill’s new  
Student Wellness Hub**





CHRISTINNE MUSCHI

"Social media is designed, in a very powerful way, for social comparison. And we know that too much social comparison has an impact on our mental health."

## A CULTURE OF WELLNESS

If Gauthier and Romano hope to see a new culture around wellness take root at McGill, the University's new local wellness advisors will be key ambassadors for that culture shift.

Some of these advisors are already busy at work and a full complement of 12 will be in place by the fall. Each will focus on their own individual 'beats.' Most will be headquartered in individual faculties, but some will be assigned to specific constituencies (international students, graduate students, students in McGill residences, the Department of Athletics and Recreation).

The advisors will engage in outreach activities tailored to these different parts of the University. They'll offer workshops and other health-related programming and organize group sessions around specific issues.

Starting this fall, the local wellness advisors will also begin to meet with students on a one-to-one basis. "It's really a coaching role that they'll be playing, not a therapeutic one," says Gauthier. "The local wellness advisors will be there to provide some early intervention and to help students build their own toolboxes for dealing with some of the things that they might not have faced before."

Shannon Walsh, BA'99, MEd'01, is the local wellness advisor for Macdonald Campus. She and the other wellness advisors have been busy meeting with students, faculty and staff in their respective areas to get a sense of their concerns. "We'll adapt our programming to meet those needs," says Walsh. That's vital, says Romano. "Some issues are universal, but different parts of the University have different cultures. We want to make sure that our programming is not just a cookie-cutter approach."

"Graduate students have had a lot to say so far," says Walsh. "They talk about how they deal with different pressures than undergraduates, how they have to balance multiple responsibilities. A couple of graduate students from one department met with me and wondered if we could start up a summer group where they could meet with other graduate students and talk about the things they're dealing with in their lives. I said, 'Okay, let's book it.'"

The wellness advisors all have backgrounds and training in different forms of counselling or therapy, says Walsh, and, coincidentally, the first seven that were hired are all McGill graduates.

"As alums, we all have an attachment to the University," says Walsh. "We also have a sense of what it's like to be a student here. We have some experience with the culture. People choose McGill, in part, because of its prestige and its high standards. Students really value that. But it isn't always easy, right? It can be a stressful environment."

Chris Buddle wonders if it has to be quite so stressful.





CHARLY COURAGE

“We don’t have a lot of control in terms of all the things that our students deal with, but one thing that we do control is the classroom environment. The way we teach, the way we do final exams, and the way we do assessments. Almost every student, when they talk about mental health, it’s very closely tied to the stress and anxiety related to assessments, and the pressures around doing well at university. That’s such an area of high importance to our students.”

Beginning this fall, Buddle will be working with Laura Winer, the director of Teaching and Learning Services, to review the University’s approach to assessing its students. “One of our principal concerns is promoting this idea of wellness.” The goal isn’t to lower standards in any way—students take pride in the fact that the University is academically demanding, says Buddle. But there might be techniques for lowering students’ anxiety levels in ways that don’t affect academic standards.

“One thing is final exams,” says Buddle. “I mean, why do we have three-hour final exams? Many professors don’t realize that they don’t have to have final exams. So why don’t we rethink our whole approach to the final exam season, and the pressure that it puts on students?” One option might be for courses to include more quizzes throughout the semester and for the final exam to be worth a smaller percentage of the overall grade.

## AMPLIFYING THE ANXIETY

“The sources of stress for this generation of students aren’t all that different from past generations,” says Heath. “What is different today is that they are amplified for our young people to such a tremendous degree.”

“When I went to McGill, I looked at the student in the next seat and asked myself how I was doing compared to them,” says Heath. “But now, with social media, students are seeing everyone else’s success every single day measured against their own. It’s a very different level of performance stress.”

Heath says social media also makes it more difficult for students to seek temporary refuge from their troubles. “It used to be that you would have these different social networks. You might have one group through a hobby, one through your school, and another through a sports activity, and they didn’t necessarily connect. Your sports friends wouldn’t know about your problems at school and you could leave that behind for a while. You can’t do that anymore. It follows you everywhere.” ➤

(far left) Armaghan Alam chaired support services for the Peer Support Centre

(above) Members of McGill’s new team of local wellness advisors (l t r): Bianca Brunetti (Arts), Lauren Weber (Engineering), Zander Masser (Music), Katelyn Ward (Education), Shannon Walsh (Macdonald Campus), Shrabani Debroy (Law) and Cyndi Owen (Residences)





"I'm always very torn when I talk about technology, because I find that it's also a solution, a way of connecting, especially for marginalized populations," says Romano. "But social media is designed, in a very powerful way, for social comparison. And we know that too much social comparison has an impact on our mental health."

Instagram can be fun—until you start obsessing over why a classmate attracts so many more likes than you do. "It's also not necessarily a very accurate way for us to compare ourselves," says Romano. "Our social media presence is in some ways very manicured. You might not know what that other person is struggling with. You don't necessarily get to see that."

If anxiety and depression are common phenomena on university campuses these days, other mental health challenges, namely loneliness and feelings of isolation, might be a more acute problem at McGill than at other universities. McGill prides itself on the fact that so many of its students come here from other provinces and countries, but those students are also leaving behind their families and friends to come to a city that might feel very foreign to them.

"I think loneliness and isolation are big factors related to concerns about mental health," says Buddle. "If you come from a different country, you don't have the same local support network, and I think it hits our international students at a different rate than local students."

Naz Böke, MED'18, who has collaborated with Heath as a member of the professor's Development and Intrapersonal Resilience Research Team, says that many students struggle with loneliness—not just international students. "That's not what people expect to hear, because this is supposed to be that period where you make friends that last a lifetime." Forging those connections can be rough, though. "You walk into classes that are huge and it can be very difficult to connect with people when you are in that setting."

#### PEER-TO-PEER SUPPORT

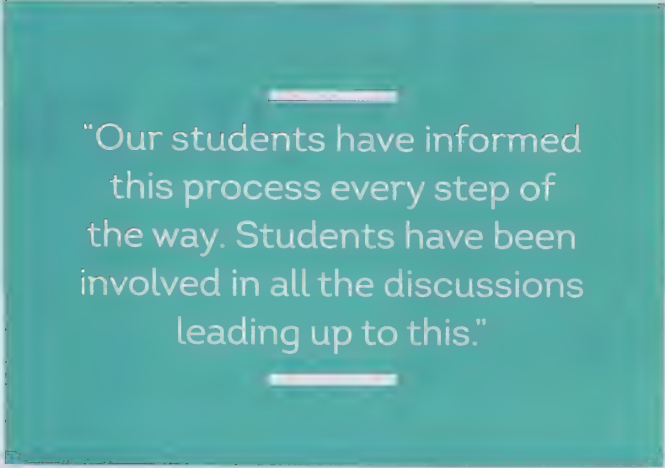
"That's one of the reasons why we are emphasizing a lot of group activities and peer-to-peer support," says Romano. "Listening to other students talk about their struggles and having them help one another can be a very effective way to feel less isolated."

That's the role played by the student-run Peer Support Centre, which deals with about 400 students each year. "We offer non-judgmental, confidential one-on-one peer support," says Alam. "It's an open-door policy and people can come in with anything." Depending on the problem, reaching out to a fellow student can be less intimidating than seeing a mental health professional, says Alam. But if a situation is particularly serious, the centre's volunteers are thoroughly trained to respond appropriately, and some students who drop by the centre are referred to the Hub for expert care.

---

**The Peer Support  
Centre in the Student  
Wellness Hub**





"Our students have informed this process every step of the way. Students have been involved in all the discussions leading up to this."

"We'll help them book the appointment and we'll even have someone sit with them [at the Hub] before the appointment if they'd like that," says Alam. "We've built up a very good relationship with [Student Services]."

Gauthier expects those links to grow tighter. "We hired a peer support manager and this is a new position for us. [Her] job is to make connections with all of the student organizations out there who are interested in working with us [on wellness]." Gauthier says student groups are doing valuable work and she wants to support that. "Our nurses will be working with [them], our dieticians will be working with [them], our counsellors will be working with [them], to engage them in training so that whatever is going out there in terms of information is actually verified and based on best practices."

The west wing of the Brown Services Building has been renovated to accommodate the Student Wellness Hub, as well as a new Healthy Living Annex that will be connected to it. Peer support will be available at the annex and nurses and dieticians will be available for consultations on certain days.

"Health promotion is a critical component of student wellness. And it was one of our biggest gaps in terms of providing care to the students," says Gauthier. "The Healthy Living Annex will be a place for students to come and find information and resources for physical health, mental health and sexual health."

The restructuring that is going on in Student Services around wellness is taking place online too. "We had about 20 different sites that dealt with health and wellness," says Gauthier. "We're combining all of that into one, the Virtual Hub. We want to make it easy for students to find the information they need."

Student Services is also collaborating with McGill's Geographic Information Centre to make it simpler for students to find off-campus resources, depending on what neighbourhood they live in.

"Our students have informed this process every step of the way," says Gauthier. "Students have been involved in all the discussions leading up to this, in the development process, in the work groups and on the steering committee. And that's going to continue. We'll have a student advisory committee to help us hear the student voice. If something needs to be tweaked, we want to hear that."

Alam was one of the students involved in the process that led to the changes. "There can be a lot of pessimism and a lot of negativity on campuses about what universities can and can't do" in terms of helping students with their mental health challenges, says Alam. "I do think McGill has really started to change that perspective. It's trying its best to listen to what students are saying."

"I think students are really seeing how [we are making] a very tangible and direct commitment to student mental health," says Buddle. "I think there is a positive sense that we're going in the right direction." 🐾



# CINÉMA QUÉBÉCOIS: LE VENT DANS LES VOILES

À L'ÈRE DE NETFLIX ET DES BOULEVERSEMENTS QU'IL PROVOQUE,  
DES MCGILLOIS S'ILLUSTRENT AU SEIN D'UN CINÉMA QUÉBÉCOIS AUDACIEUX ET RÉSILIENT.

*Par Jean-Benoît Nadeau (B.A. 1991)*

*Révision : Elaine Doiron*







« **A** llô, Bébé?... Excusez-moi, il faut que je le prenne », dit Nancy Grant (B.A. 2005), productrice chez Metafilms. « Bébé », c'est Xavier Dolan, dont le dernier film, *Mathias et Maxime*, est en compétition au Festival de Cannes 2019. Nancy Grant croule sous les demandes, car Metafilms a réalisé un doublé : un autre de ses films, *La femme de mon frère* de Monia Chokri, fait aussi partie de la sélection officielle à Cannes. « Là, il faut décider qui ira à Cannes, quand et pour combien de jours; c'est compliqué », explique la productrice en rattachant.

Le nom de Nancy Grant est quasi indissociable de celui de Xavier Dolan, qui a produit chez elle ses plus grands succès. En 2013, elle a même autorisé le début du tournage de *Mommy* alors qu'elle n'avait recueilli que le tiers du budget nécessaire. La suite lui donnera raison puisque *Mommy* remportera le Prix du jury 2014. C'est ainsi que Nancy Grant a gravi les marches du Palais des Festivals une première fois — la seconde, c'était encore avec « Bébé », pour *Juste la fin du monde*, qui a remporté le Grand prix 2016. « Je n'avais pas vraiment l'ambition d'aller à Cannes, mais j'en ai rêvé, ça oui », convient Nancy Grant. « Par contre, je ne suis jamais allée aux Oscars, et je ne le vivrai pas comme un échec si ça ne marche pas de ce côté-là. C'est tellement rare. »

De moins en moins, peut-être, car le cinéma québécois vit des années fastes. Ses réalisateurs, producteurs et scénaristes arpentent les tapis rouges à Cannes, à Berlin et à Venise et accumulent les Oscars, les Césars et les Iris (anciens prix Jutra). Lors de la dernière édition des prix Écrans (anciens prix Génie) à Toronto, 14 des 15 finalistes dans les catégories du meilleur film, de la meilleure réalisation et du meilleur scénario original venaient du Québec.

## DES MCGILLOIS À L'AVANT-PLAN

Même si l'Université McGill n'a ni faculté des beaux-arts ni école de cinéma, nombreux sont ses diplômés qui contribuent à ce dynamisme. Ils ont étudié en psychologie et en développement international (Nancy Grant), en littérature française (Philippe Lesage, Chloé Cinq-Mars), en théologie (Daniel Ferguson), en biologie (David Uloth) et même en finances (Alexandre Franchi). Sans compter quelques très grandes vedettes comme le producteur Jake Eberts (B. Ing. 1962), décédé en 2012. Depuis son bureau de Montréal, ce natif d'Arvida, au Saguenay, a produit ou coproduit plus de 26 films (dont *Les Chariots de feu*, *Gandhi*, *Le Nom de la rose*, *Danse avec les loups*) qui se sont mérités 37 Oscars.

« Mes études en littérature française ont été déterminantes. Elles m'ont donné l'assurance qu'il me fallait pour écrire », raconte Philippe Lesage (B.A. 1998), dont les deux derniers films, *Les Démons* et *Genèse*, lui ont valu une quinzaine de prix et de nominations dans plusieurs festivals à l'étranger (San Francisco, Budapest, Valladolid). *Genèse* figurait même dans la liste des dix meilleurs films canadiens au Festival international du film de Toronto en 2018. « Nous étions trois dans la classe de création littéraire d'Yvon Rivard. C'était un véritable privilège. Yvon, qui est devenu un ami, a été le premier à me reconnaître un certain talent. » ➤

(à gauche) La productrice Nancy Grant félicite le réalisateur Xavier Dolan, qui vient d'apprendre que son film *Juste la fin du monde* a remporté le Grand Prix du Festival de Cannes 2016.

(en haut) Scène du film *Mommy*, de Xavier Dolan



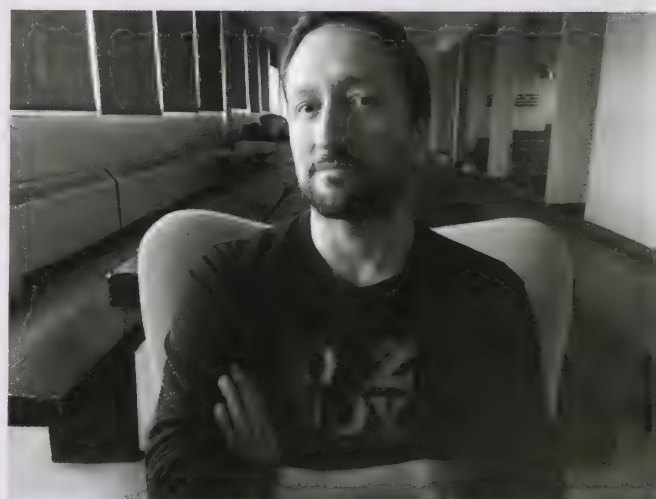


Scène du film *Genèse*, de Philippe Lesage

« Mon diplôme en finances m'a bien servi comme producteur », raconte Alexandre Franchi (B. Com. 1992), qui a travaillé six ans dans le secteur bancaire avant de se lancer dans le cinéma en 1998. Ses deux longs-métrages fantaisistes, *Chasse infernale* et *Happy Face*, ont beaucoup circulé aux États-Unis. « Comme je me suis lancé tard, je voulais bouger vite. J'ai dû faire pas mal de publicité pour en vivre, mais grâce à ma formation, je savais ce que les annonceurs voulaient. Et puis, les diplômés de McGill sont nombreux chez les gros clients; ça aide. »

En ce qui concerne Daniel Ferguson (B.A. 1996), le lien entre ses études en théologie et ses films Ima *Voyage à la Mecque et Jérusalem* semble évident. Mais c'est plutôt l'Association étudiante qu'il remercie.

« Quand je suis arrivé à McGill, j'ai été très déçu de découvrir que le Club de cinéma était fermé à cause d'une dette de 20 000 \$. L'Association étudiante m'a dit : "Si tu lances un nouveau club, on te laisse l'équipement." J'ai donc créé Image ensemble. J'ai vendu le vieux matériel pour payer la dette et acheter du matériel neuf, et Image ensemble est devenu une sorte de petite école de cinéma. Les membres réalisaient leur film et j'étais producteur pour tout le monde. Je m'occupais des questions d'ordre matériel, et je recueillais les subventions et les dons de personnalités, comme Jake Eberts. »



(en haut) Le cinéaste Alexandre Franchi

(en bas) Le cinéaste Daniel Ferguson



---

« Ici, le réalisateur participe au montage final et il a le dernier mot. Ça encourage un cinéma différent, un cinéma d'auteur, très libre. »

#### LE QUÉBEC, UN TERREAU FERTILE

Daniel Ferguson est fasciné depuis longtemps par le cinéma québécois. Sa maison de production, Cosmic Picture, est établie à Londres, mais la production se fait entièrement à Montréal. Il a choisi de venir étudier au Québec, attiré par son dynamisme très particulier. « J'avais été fasciné par des films comme *Jésus de Montréal*, *Un Zoo la nuit*, *Léolo*, raconte-t-il. Le cinéma québécois me semblait très en avance sur ce qui se faisait ailleurs au Canada, et je suis toujours du même avis. »

Ce dynamisme s'explique par une combinaison de facteurs : la cohabitation des francophones et des anglophones; des loyers abordables qui favorisent la bohème artistique; une industrie télévisuelle surdimensionnée; un secteur théâtral important; la présence de l'ONF, de plusieurs écoles de cinéma à Concordia et à l'UQAM, et de l'Institut national de l'image et du son; et une forte cinéphilie qui remonte à Expo 67.

Et il y a la SODEC. Grâce à cet organisme gouvernemental, le Québec est la seule province qui double la mise de Téléfilm Canada. Le Québec a aussi créé de généreux crédits d'impôt pour le cinéma, et il signe ses propres traités de coproduction, ce qui ouvre des portes vers d'autres sources de financement et d'autres publics.

« Au Canada, le soutien public accorde beaucoup de latitude aux créateurs, dit Philippe Lesage. Aux États-Unis, les producteurs et les financiers ordonnent des coupes au montage et un réalisateur peut se faire tasser, carrément. Ici, le réalisateur participe au montage final et il a le dernier mot. Ça encourage un cinéma différent, un cinéma d'auteur, très libre. »

Selon Nancy Grant, l'appui à la production de courts-métrages est une particularité du soutien public québécois. « Cet appui favorise l'éclosion de talents. Il y a une foule d'événements, comme les prix Prends ça court! et le Festival international du court-métrage, à Saguenay. » Pour David Uloth (B. Sc. 1994), dont le premier long-métrage, *Dérive*, a connu un beau succès critique et public après cinq semaines en salle, le système de reconnaissance vient nourrir le vedettariat, autre particularité québécoise. « C'est une question de fierté culturelle. Les Québécois veulent s'entendre et se voir, et ils célèbrent les succès des Québécois partout, même dans d'autres langues. »

David Uloth raconte avoir pris la pleine mesure du vedettariat avec le succès de *Dérive*, mettant en vedette Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin. L'actrice est devenue célèbre en 2011 grâce à un autre film québécois, *Incendies*, qui a connu un succès mondial (nomination aux Oscars et aux Césars, huit prix Génie, neuf prix Jutra). « C'est une vraie vedette, très talentueuse, qui nous a fait profiter de son réseau. Je n'avais pas réalisé à quel point ça pouvait être important, même pour du cinéma d'auteur », dit David Uloth, qui admet ne pas se prêter spontanément au jeu du vedettariat. « Quand j'étudiais en biologie, je savais déjà que je m'orienterais en cinéma. J'avais un ami qui s'appelait Alex Eberts. J'ai mis des années à réaliser qu'il était le fils du producteur Jake Eberts! » ➤

Scène du film *Dérive*, de David Uloth





## LE SUCCÈS À L'ÈRE DE NETFLIX

Les voies du succès sont diverses et très personnelles. « Pour moi, le succès, c'est que j'ai pu vivre de mon travail sans avoir à prendre des "jobines" », dit Chloé Cinq-Mars (M. Litt. 2000), l'une des rares scénaristes professionnelles au Québec. Elle s'émerveille d'ailleurs de voir que son premier long-métrage, *Dérive*, réalisé par son conjoint, sera distribué en Colombie. « On ne fait pas un film pour l'argent. On le fait parce qu'on n'a pas le choix. C'est un besoin, une pulsion. C'est presque thérapeutique. Que mon film soit à l'affiche pendant cinq semaines et qu'il fasse le tour des circuits, pour moi, c'est ça le succès. »

Après des études au Collège européen du cinéma, au Danemark, Philippe Lesage a trouvé le retour au Québec difficile en 1999. « Les producteurs me disaient : "Qu'est-ce que tu es allé faire au Danemark?" Je n'avais fait ni Concordia, ni la course Destination Monde, qui étaient alors des passages obligés. » Il faudra plusieurs années avant qu'un prix Jutra vienne récompenser un de ses documentaires, *Ce cœur qui bat*, en 2012.

David Uloth a travaillé cinq ans comme opérateur de grue de caméra sur tous les grands plateaux américains de passage à Montréal. Le jour, il travaillait aux côtés de Martin Scorsese ou de Leonardo DiCaprio; le soir et les week-ends, il planchait sur ses propres projets. « En 2004, j'ai gagné un prix de scénarisation à la Berlinale, qui m'a permis de réaliser mon court-métrage, *The Pick-up*, en trois semaines. C'est à partir de là que mes demandes de subventions ont commencé à débloquer. »

Au Québec, l'argent public est à la base de tous les projets; l'État ne fait pas de cadeau à personne. « Chaque fois, on prend un risque; rien ne garantit que ça va marcher à nouveau », dit David Uloth. « Denys Arcand a beau avoir gagné à Cannes et aux Oscars, il repart de zéro chaque fois. »

Chloé Cinq-Mars réalise que ses études en littérature l'ont particulièrement bien formée pour cet exercice. « Pour formuler une bonne demande de bourse, il faut pouvoir analyser son écriture, comprendre les intentions, les motifs narratifs, les métaphores. Ma formation littéraire équivaut à cinq ans d'études en demandes de bourses. »

Malgré son dynamisme, le cinéma québécois devra relever plusieurs défis au cours des prochaines années. Selon Nancy Grant, le premier consiste à trouver les publics : avec des parts de marché local oscillant entre 5 et 20 % depuis 20 ans, le cinéma québécois se compare favorablement à tous les cinémas nationaux — hormis les superpuissances cinématographiques telles que les États-Unis, la Chine, l'Inde et la France, qui profitent d'un gros marché domestique. « Le marché québécois est tellement petit, dit-elle, qu'un film doit absolument trouver d'autres publics pour assurer sa viabilité et sa reconnaissance. »

L'autre défi, c'est Netflix. « On parle en fait d'une "réorganisation en profondeur" du marché du cinéma », explique Nancy Grant, dont le travail consiste à dénicher toutes les sources de financement possibles, publiques ou privées. « Les distributeurs nous financent en fonction des revenus potentiels provenant des ventes au guichet et de la location. Comme les perspectives sont moins bonnes, ils hésitent à s'engager. Pour financer un film, il faut donc s'adapter et trouver d'autres sources de revenus. »

Pour Philippe Lesage, il est urgent que les gouvernements adaptent leurs règles à la nouvelle réalité. « D'après moi, la solution passera par l'imposition de quotas québécois sur les plateformes existantes, comme Netflix, et non par la création d'une plateforme québécoise distincte qui obligerait les gens à déboursier un autre 10 \$. » Mais la distribution n'est pas le seul enjeu, selon lui. « Le gouvernement doit miser sur l'éducation pour inculquer aux jeunes le goût de la culture. Il faut qu'ils acquièrent l'envie de voir des films, de lire, d'écouter de la musique. Il faut bâtir là-dessus. » 🐼

*Jean-Benoît Nadeau est chroniqueur au Devoir et reporter à L'actualité. Son article « Tango médiatique », publié dans notre numéro de l'été 2018, lui a valu de recevoir une médaille d'argent du Conseil canadien pour l'avancement de l'éducation pour le meilleur article de fond en français paru dans une publication universitaire.*





# LIGHTS, CAMERA, QUEBEC!

MEET THE MCGILLIANS WHO ARE PLAYING MAJOR ROLES  
IN QUEBEC'S THRIVING FILM INDUSTRY.

by Jean-Benoît Nadeau, BA'92  
translated by Julie Barlow, BA'91

**A**lo, Bébé? I'm sorry, I really have to take this call," says movie producer and Metafilms co-founder Nancy Grant, BA'05. "Bébé," it turns out, is filmmaker Xavier Dolan, whose latest work, *Mathias et Maxime*, was in official competition at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival.

"We have to decide how many days we'll be spending at Cannes, which days we'll go and who will go. It's complicated," explains Grant after the call. Her phone almost never stops ringing: Metafilms has another movie, Monia Chokri's *La femme de mon frère*, in competition at Cannes. (Chokri's film went on to win the Coup de Coeur award.)

Grant's name is practically inseparable from Dolan's—the close collaborators have worked together on all five of his most recent features. In 2013, Grant gave Dolan the green light to start work on *Mommy* even though she had only secured a third of the film's budget at the time. The gamble paid off: *Mommy* went on to win the 2014 Prix du Jury at Cannes. Two years later, she and Dolan marched up the stairs of Cannes' Palais des Festivals once again when Dolan's *Juste la fin du monde* won the Grand Prix.

Quebec cinema has established itself as a force to be reckoned with, receiving recognition at the Oscars and Césars. During the recent Canadian Screen Awards, it was hard not to notice that 14 of the 15 finalists in the categories for best film, best director and best original screenplay were all from Quebec.

Several alumni are making names for themselves in the Quebec film industry. Philippe Lesage, BA'98, for instance, directed *Genesis*, which earned three Canadian Screen Award nominations, including best film.

"The years I studied French literature [at McGill] were decisive. They gave me the confidence to write," says Lesage. He describes the time he spent in classes taught by emeritus professor of French language and literature Yvon Rivard as "a real privilege. We had to turn out one short story per week. Yvon, who became a friend, was the first person to recognize I had some talent." ➤

---

**Director Xavier Dolan with producers Nancy Grant and Sylvain Corbeil after winning the Prix Iris for best film for *Juste la fin du monde* at the 2017 Gala Québec Cinéma**



Actress Éléonore Loiselle (left) with director David Uloth and screenwriter Chloé Cinq-Mars on the set of *Dérive*



Alexandre Franchi, BCom'92, worked in banking for six years before becoming a director. "I came into the game late, so I had to act quickly," he says. Before veering into feature films, he first established himself as a successful director for TV commercials (his clients have included Pepsi and Toyota). "Thanks to my training, I knew what the advertisers wanted," says Franchi.

His two feature length films, *The Wild Hunt* (it won the Toronto International Film Festival's prize for best first feature by a Canadian director) and *Happy Face*, have both received wide exposure on the festival circuit.

As a McGill student in the mid-nineties, Daniel Ferguson studied history and religious studies—which seems apt for a director who went on to make the internationally successful Imax films *Journey to Mecca* and *Jerusalem*. Ferguson himself gives the Students' Society of McGill University (SSMU) some of the credit for his career.

"When I came to McGill I was disappointed to discover that the McGill Film Society had been shut down because of an accumulated debt. [SSMU] told me: 'If you start a new association with another name and a new constitution, we'll give you the old equipment.' So I created a new association called Image ensemble, sold the old equipment to pay off the debt and bought new equipment.

"Image ensemble turned into a little film school where members could make a film, so out of necessity, I became a producer. I took care of all the equipment issues and got grants and donations from film industry personalities like Jake Eberts [BEng'62, DLitt'98]. It worked so well, I had a hard time finishing my degree."

Ferguson grew up in Ontario and Australia, but was attracted to Quebec by the vitality of its film industry. "I was fascinated by films like *Jésus de Montréal*, *Un zoo la nuit*, and *Léolo*," he explains. "Quebec cinema seemed to be way ahead of the rest of Canada, and I think that's still true."

With Quebec directors like Dolan, Jean-Marc Vallée (*Sharp Objects*) and Denis Villeneuve (*Blade Runner 2049*) all enjoying international acclaim, Ferguson isn't alone in thinking that way. So why is Quebec—and Montreal in particular—such a vibrant place for making movies?

There are several factors worth considering: affordable rents that encourage a bohemian arts community; a large pool of talent thanks to a bustling theatre scene and a large (relative to the size of the population) TV industry; access to training (Concordia, UQAM, Institut national de l'image et du son).

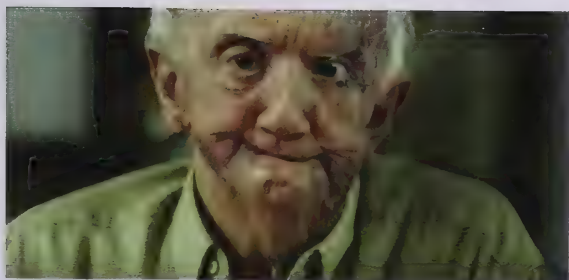
And then there's the Société des entreprises culturelles (SODEC). Thanks to this government agency, Quebec is the only province that doubles the grants received from Telefilm Canada. What's more, Quebec offers generous tax credits to the film industry.

"In the United States, producers and financiers can demand changes," says Lesage. "But here, directors participate in the final edits and have the last word. It encourages 'auteur' films."

"Quebeckers want to see and hear their own stars and they celebrate the success of their artists everywhere, even in other languages," says director David Uloth, BSc'94.

Uloth's film *Dérive*, a recent commercial and critical success, benefitted from Quebec's potent home-grown star system. One of his actors, Mélissa Désormeaux-Poulin, shot to stardom in 2011 after appearing in the Oscar-nominated *Incendies*.





"She's a true celebrity, very talented, and she brought her network to us. I didn't realize what that can do, even for an art film," says Uloth.

"The definition of success for me was being able to make a living from my work without having to do other jobs on the side," says Chloé Cinq-Mars, MA'00. Uloth's partner, professionally and romantically, she wrote the script for *Dérive*. "No one makes a film for the money. We do it because we don't have any choice. It's a need, an urge. It's almost therapeutic."

While Lesage's *Genesis* received rave reviews inside and outside the province (*The Globe and Mail* called it "one of the best films of the year—no matter its country"), he says his start in filmmaking was rocky.

He returned to Quebec in 2001 after studying at Denmark's European Film College. "I went knocking on doors and all producers had to say was, 'What were you doing in Denmark?'" It would take Lesage more than a decade to gain recognition: his documentary *Ce coeur qui bat* won a Jutra prize in 2012.

Uloth worked for five years as a camera crane operator on the sets of big American productions filming in Montreal. He'd spend his days in the company of Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio, and evenings and weekends working on his own projects.

"In 2004, I won one of the screenwriting awards at the Berlin International Film Festival. As a prize, they gave me enough resources to direct my short film, *The Pick-up*. My grant applications started being successful after that."

Quebec might nurture its film industry more than in other places, but that doesn't mean the province's filmmakers are traveling an easy road.

"The market in Quebec is so small that a film absolutely must find other publics to be viable and gain recognition," says Grant. She adds that the economics of filmmaking are shifting in an era of Netflix and streaming.

"Distributors finance us on the basis of anticipated sales, whether it's box office or DVDs. Because they are making less money from these sources, they are more hesitant about investing."

"After each film, there's no guarantee things will work again," says Uloth. "Even though Denis Arcand's films won awards at Cannes and at the Oscars, he had to start from zero with his next film." 🐾

---

(above) A scene from  
Alexandre Franchi's  
*Happy Face*

(below) A scene from  
Daniel Ferguson's  
*Superpower Dogs*



# LIFE WITH PRINCE AND BEYOND

**Y**ou may have had transcendent moments in your life. You may have even had a few monumental triumphs. But you have never been onstage in front of thousands of people and had Prince point at you to take the solo in “Purple Rain.”

“Yes, it was magical,” says guitarist **DONNA GRANTIS**, BMus’02. Once a member of Prince’s backing band 3rdEyeGirl, Grantis is now a solo artist. Her debut album *Diamonds and Dynamite* was released earlier this year to enthusiastic reviews. The Associated Press described it as “an experimentally adventurous set, which contains ample evidence why Prince held Grantis in such high regard.”

Grantis has been playing since she picked up her older brother’s acoustic guitar at 13. Recognizing her desire and perhaps even her nascent ability, she asked her father for her own axe, and he offered her a deal: learn one song perfectly, and it’s yours. She came back playing “Stairway to Heaven.”

Dad plunked down the cash for a Series A. “Red, with a maple neck,” she says with enduring fondness.

In models and formative influences, she aimed high. “Jimmy Page and Led Zeppelin, Jeff Beck ... even as a teenager, ‘Led Boots’ on [Beck’s album] *Wired*—I couldn’t even get past that song for a whole day!” So she absorbed it, and the styles anchoring them all.

“Jimmy Page is a blues player, and blues is my foundation. Jazz was a natural evolution,” she says. “I love the improvisational aspect of both styles, but jazz has more harmonic possibilities. There’s more freedom, I feel.”

That transition led her to McGill’s Schulich School of Music and the Jazz Program. “It was an amazing learning experience,” she says. “It’s a traditional program focused on bebop, which made it fantastic from an educational perspective.” She developed into a technically flawless player who folded soul and melody into her virtuosity.

**Donna Grantis (left)  
performing with  
Prince and Ida Nielsen  
in Montreal in 2015**



As Prince began scouting for new band members in 2012, Grantis landed on his radar. Which is how she found herself at Paisley Park with her soon-to-be 3rdEyeGirl bandmates. “The girls and I, Hannah [Ford, drums] and Ida [Nielsen, bass] set up our instruments, and we were given a short list of songs to prepare.” Prince was on piano. When they hit ‘Purple Rain,’ “he just let me go for it.”

The only other time she played the solo was at a concert in Toronto in front of a hometown audience. She wrote the title track to the 2014 album *Plectrumelectrum* (it was number one on the Billboard Rock Chart), and toured with Prince throughout the U.K., Europe, and North America. They performed on *Saturday Night Live*, and played the White House for President Barack Obama and his family.

“He was an absolute world-class guitarist, vocalist, keyboardist, songwriter, producer and lyricist,” says Grantis. “He’d mastered all of those, but he was also a master *bandleader*. It was a thrill every time we played together, whether it was in front of thousands or at Paisley Park just jamming and rehearsing.”

He was also exacting. He rehearsed them six days a week, from 2 pm until the early morning.

“When we were focused on music, it was a very focused time,” she says. “And then there were times when we would hang out playing ping pong or watching movies.” Prince was also a master at ping pong. “Yes, he always won.”

On her new album, on songs like “Trashformer” and “Violetta,” Grantis returns to her roots while pointing the way forward for jazz fusion. She throws in covers of Miles Davis and Santana in the live shows, and notes, “my audiences are a little rowdier than the average jazz crowd.”

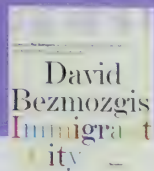
“Donna can whup every man on guitar, bar none,” Prince once said. Grantis sees herself as still evolving. “It’s a lifelong quest, to keep learning and getting better. But to be honest, the more you know, the more you know you don’t know.”

**Mark Lepage, BA’86**



## IMMIGRANT CITY

By David Bezmozgis, BA'96



Many of the characters in *Immigrant City*, a new collection of short stories from David Bezmozgis, contend with a disorienting sense of dislocation. As they struggle to make new lives for themselves in North America, they derive little comfort from their memories of the world they left behind in the former Soviet Union. There were good reasons for leaving, after all. Even those who grew up in North America with few ties to their families' former lives find themselves affected by those old connections, in one way or another.

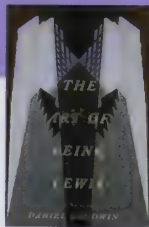
The situations facing Bezmozgis's protagonists in these stories vary widely. A once promising boxer steels himself for a confrontation with hoodlums that might be dangerous and will almost surely be disastrous for his love life. A writer has an uncomfortable encounter with a new breakthrough in virtual reality. A corporate lawyer reluctantly travels to Latvia to check on the status of a gravestone after being pestered by his parents.

Most of these stories don't go where you expect them to—Bezmozgis has a knack for sly plot twists. He is also adept at conveying the surprising and unsettling ways in which we are all bound together by our vulnerabilities.

**Daniel McCabe, BA'89**

## THE ART OF BEING LEWIS

by Daniel Goodwin, BA'91



A McGill-trained architect, Lewis Morton isn't the kind of guy who needs to be the centre of attention. He is more than happy to let Dresher, his smooth-talking partner and best friend, make the speeches at the official openings for their buildings. But suddenly, Lewis *does* find himself in the spotlight—and it isn't at all for the right reasons.

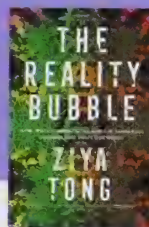
A famous architect sues Lewis and Dresher for stealing his design, and Dresher complicates things by abruptly dying. Their firm is sold and the smug new managing partner is anxious to distance the company from an architect under suspicion. If that isn't bad enough, a dogged detective is determined to find the man who exposed himself to a group of teens—which was the result of Lewis's desperate need to relieve a full bladder and his ill-timed decision to do it in a public park.

Things definitely get squirmy at times, but Daniel Goodwin includes enough humour in his novel to make sure that the story is never too dark—even when we see Lewis struggle to come to terms with the childhood incident that has haunted him throughout his life, the suicide of his mother, a gifted painter.

**DM**

## THE REALITY BUBBLE

by Ziya Tong, BA'99



We all have our blind spots—and that's true of us as a species too. For instance, as science journalist Ziya Tong chronicles in *The Reality Bubble*, we struggle with the fact that “reality is not human-sized.” Great big things (like the universe that surrounds us) and tiny things (like the microorganisms that play a pivotal role in making the Earth hospitable) elude our notice for the most part.

But some of our blind spots have particularly dangerous implications, argues Tong. When it comes to things like where our food comes from, how our energy is produced and where our waste goes, we tend to be cheerfully, willfully ignorant of the details—and that ignorance is imperiling our planet.

While the book is, in many ways, a deadly serious plea for us to pay more attention to the ways in which we are affecting our world, Zong covers a lot of ground in ways that are both unexpected and entertaining. Readers discover how radiocarbon from nuclear bomb blasts helped solve a forensic mystery, why British hikers have “the right to roam” through Madonna's U.K. estate, and how human manure was once a prized commodity in countries like China and Japan.

**DM**

## MUSIC TO DRAW TO: IO

by Kid Koala



At the insistence of his parents, Kid Koala (aka Eric San, BEd'96) completed a university degree. He opted to do it in early childhood education at McGill—and that choice has undoubtedly informed his music.

Playfulness and boundless creativity are two prevailing themes in his work; from interactive turntables in the audience, to larger-than-life octopus puppets at his concerts, to the graphic novels that often accompany his albums, the world-renowned scratch DJ and multimedia performer likes to make sure that his music is about more than just the music.

His newest album, *Music to Draw To: Io*, a follow-up to his 2017 album *Music to Draw To: Satellite*, draws inspiration from the quiet tranquility of Montreal winters, and is meant to serve as a creative companion which “allows space for the listener's own ideas,” according to San.

Frequently working alongside Belgian vocalist Trixie Whitley, San uses the album's 18 tracks to weave together Greek mythology-inspired lyrics with serene synthetic melodies, blending into the perfect background music for everything from creating something new (as the album's title suggests) to watching the snow softly fall on a city sidewalk on a lazy January afternoon.

**Becca Hoff, BA'17, MIST'19**



## HONOURS &amp; AWARDS

An ardent advocate of science, technology, space and sustainability, McGill's Lorne Trottier was presented with the McGill Alumni Association's (MAA) highest honour at this year's MAA Honours and Awards Banquet.

Trottier was recognized for his exceptional contributions to McGill through his philanthropy, his many volunteer roles and his steadfast commitment to forging positive change through the research and scholarship spearheaded at his alma mater.

More than 300 guests, including Principal and Vice-Chancellor Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76, Chancellor Michael Meighen, BA'60, LLD'12, and Chair of the Board of Governors, Ram Panda, MEng'71, MBA'77, attended the annual banquet recognizing the outstanding achievements of students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the University.

*Photos by Paul Fournier*



Once again, a sold-out crowd of alumni and friends enjoyed an evening of celebration, conversation and laughter at the annual banquet that took place on May 8, 2019, at the Omni Mont-Royal Hotel in Montreal.



Co-emcee Bob Babinski, BA'86, shakes hands with Alumni Student Engagement Award recipient Rubin Gruber while fellow emcee and MAA President Inez Jabalpurwala, BA'89, MA'91, MBA'01, applauds.

2019

## RECIPIENTS

**AWARD OF MERIT**

Lorne Trottier, BEng'70, MEng'73, DSc'06

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

Sylvia Piggott, BA'77, MLS'79

**D. LORNE GALES SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD**

Kim Bartlett, BA'78, MA'84

**E. P. TAYLOR AWARD**

Faculty of Engineering Class of 1975

**ALUMNI STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AWARD**

Rubin Gruber, BSc'65, DSc'14

**CATHERINE NANCE COMMON  
PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Omar Masood, BEng'08

**ALUMNI EVENT OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*A Celebration in Honour of Dr. Alice Benjamin*  
Lorne Lieberman, BA'94

**CHARLES H. PETERS ALUMNI GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD**

*McGill Book Fair*

Anne Williams, BSc'69, and  
Susan Woodruff, BA'68, MEd'73, MA'84

**ROBERT FUNG INTERNATIONAL AWARD OF DISTINCTION**

Madeline Cathcart-Bohr, BA'71  
Bernhard Duechting, MSc'83

**JAMES G. WRIGHT AWARD**

Dave D'Oyen, BA'13

**HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD**

Kathleen Taylor, LLD'17

**GRETTA CHAMBERS STUDENT LEADERSHIP AWARD**

Christine Ha, BSc(NutrSc)'18, MSc'21 in progress  
Mallory Anne Laframboise, BSc'12, BSc(Kinesiology)'14, DMD'18  
Xin Mei Liu, MDCM'19  
Matthew McLaughlin, BCom'21 in progress  
Olivia Monton, BSc'12, BSc(AgEnvSc)'16, MDCM'20 in progress  
André Moreau, BCL/LLB'19

**DAVID JOHNSTON FACULTY AND STAFF AWARD**

Donald Sheppard

**HONORA SHAUGHNESSY MCGILL AMBASSADOR AWARD**

Dorothy Thomas-Edding, DipPT'62, DipOT'63, BScP&OT'64,  
DipEd'73, MScA'75





From left: André Moreau, Olivia Monton, Matthew McLaughlin, Xin Mei Liu, Mallory Anne Laframboise, and Christine Ha receive Gretta Chambers Student Leadership Awards from Principal Suzanne Fortier, BSc'72, PhD'76 (centre).

Toronto's Dave D'Oyen is recognized for exemplary service to his community with the James G. Wright Award, presented by co-emcee Bob Babinski.



Bob Babinski hands a McGill tie to tie-averse Lorne Trottier as Principal Fortier presents him with the Award of Merit, recognizing a lifetime contribution of exceptional leadership and service to the University, the McGill Alumni Association and the community.

Members of the Faculty of Engineering Class of 1975 celebrate their E. P. Taylor Award, recognizing outstanding voluntary fundraising efforts in support of McGill.



◀ The remarkable Dorothy Thomas-Edding receives the Honora Shaughnessy McGill Ambassador Award from Honora Shaughnessy, MLS'73, herself for exceptional contributions to the University as a role model in fostering friend-raising, loyalty, professionalism and team spirit.

Sylvia Piggott (centre), accompanied by daughter Gabrielle, receives the Distinguished Service Award from Ram Panda.



Calgary's Omar Masood, is presented with the Catherine Nance Common President of the Year Award by fellow Albertan and MAA super volunteer Jeremy Clark, BSc'98.





## HAIL TO THE CHEFS!

Hungry alumni and friends were on hand for the Food for Life event at McGill's Macdonald Campus showcasing the Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' innovative research and programming. Guests were served a meal prepared with locally-sourced food and invited to participate in small group activities—testing new food products being developed in Food Science and Dietetics. Chef Baptiste Peupion demonstrated the art of using a cauliflower with zero waste, assisted by sous-chef Principal Suzanne Fortier.

## PARTNERING FOR THE PETERSON-WESBROOK SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Principal Fortier joined UBC President and McGill alumnus Santa Ono, PhD'91, to announce the Peterson-Wesbrook Scholars Program, which will provide mobility funds for student exchanges between McGill and UBC. The unique program will allow students to move between both universities in innovative ways, while making the most of the special facilities and courses found at each university. Students will also benefit from living in another region of Canada, by studying and working in a new environment, and building independence and new perspectives.



## ENLIGHTENMENT IN BOSTON

A full house of alumni and friends were on hand in Boston to hear experimental psychologist and bestselling author, Steven Pinker, BA'76, DSc'99, in conversation with *New Yorker* staff writer and fellow bestselling author, Adam Gopnik, BA'80. The event was hosted by McGill's Dean of Arts, Antonia Maioni, and featured a lively discussion of Pinker's latest work, *Enlightenment Now: The Case for Reason, Science, Humanism, and Progress* as well as the themes of Gopnik's new book, *A Thousand Small Sanities: The Moral Adventure of Liberalism*.



# HOMECOMING CELEBRATION WEEKEND



SEPTEMBER 26 '19  
28

## A SPECIAL EDITION HOMECOMING



### ▶ DR. JANE GOODALL

PhD, DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace

SEPT. 26 | Beatty Memorial Lecture, co-sponsored by the McGill Women's Alumnae Association



### ▶ MARY WALSH

DLitt'08, actor, writer, producer, TV host, and director

SEPT. 27 | Leacock Luncheon, 50th Anniversary Edition



### ▶ KAI KIGHT

Graduate of Stanford's d.school, international keynote speaker, violinist and composer

SEPT. 27 | McGill Young Alumni Cocktail

### PLUS

*Join us for an historic announcement and other Signature Events:*

- ▶ 24th Annual Sports Hall of Fame Luncheon September 25
- ▶ Golden Jubilee Dinner: A 50th Anniversary Celebration for the Class of 1969 September 27
- ▶ Football Game and Family Tailgate September 28
- ▶ And much more!



- ▶ Macdonald Campus Community Engagement Centre "backstage" visit & Sir William Macdonald Luncheon, September 28

For details and registration, please visit:  
[alumni.mcgill.ca/homecoming](http://alumni.mcgill.ca/homecoming)



McGill | ALUMNI



# MCGILL BENEFITS JUST FOR YOU

As a McGill graduate, you're entitled to a range of exclusive benefits, all at significant savings to you.\* From free library access to discounts in Montreal and beyond, your McGill degree continues to give back to you. *That's the McGill advantage.*

[alumni.mcgill.ca/benefits](http://alumni.mcgill.ca/benefits)

\*Some conditions may apply.



Need a place to stay or space to work?  
**SAVINGS AROUND THE GLOBE**



Searching for answers?  
**FREE LIBRARY PRIVILEGES**



Looking for coverage for your family?  
**COMPETITIVE INSURANCE PLANS**



Ready to explore the world?  
**EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAMS**



**McGill | ALUMNI**





**AMALE ANDRAOS**, BSc(Arch)'94, BArch'96, and her firm WORKac have been selected to design BeMA, the new Beirut Museum of Art in Lebanon. The museum will feature a permanent collection of modern and contemporary art from Lebanon, the Lebanese diaspora and the region. The design reimagines Beirut's distinctive balconies as a series of outdoor galleries in a multitude of scales and shapes. The Lebanese-born architect is the dean of the Columbia Graduate School of Architecture.

## AGRICULTURAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

**CHARLIE BARNES**, BSc(Agr)'61, was inducted into the Guelph Sports Hall of Fame in recognition of his numerous triathlon wins and significant fundraising efforts, most notably for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. He competed in his first triathlon race in 1999, at the age of 62. He has qualified for a place on Team Canada three times to run in the International Triathlon Union World Triathlon Finals, and won the bronze medal for the 80-84 age group in 2017.

**EBRAHIM NOROOZI**, MSc'78, is the lab manager and course coordinator for McGill's Department of Food Science and Agricultural Chemistry. In 2018, he became the first recipient of McGill's new Sustainable Labs Award for his commitment to sustainable practices and resource efficiency. In March, he was named Iranian Food Scientist of the Year (OHS & Food Safety) by the Iranian Food Science & Technology Association for his work in promoting occupational health and safety in food and beverage processing industries. In June, he will receive the BCRSP Recognition Award from the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals for his contributions to occupational health and safety.

**CHARLES VINCENT**, MSc'80, PhD'83, was inducted as an Honorary Member of the Entomological Society of America during a joint annual meeting with the Entomological Society of Canada and the Entomological Society of British Columbia in Vancouver in November 2018. He is a research scientist with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and an expert on alternative approaches to insect management.

**MARY R. L'ABBÉ**, MSc'83, PhD'88, was appointed to the Order of Canada as a member in recognition of "her contributions to the health of Canadians as a champion of nutrition." A professor of nutritional sciences at the University of Toronto, her research group has developed two large national food databases, which have been used to answer a number of policy related research questions. She has also been active in several national and international efforts, including the International Obesity Task Force and the World Health Organization Nutrition Guidance Expert Advisory Group.

**ANTHONY RICCIARDI**, BSc(Agr)'90, MSc'92, PhD'97, a professor of invasion ecology and aquatic ecosystems with the Redpath Museum and the McGill School of Environment, was the recipient of the 2018 Frank Rigler Award, the highest honour given by the Society of Canadian Limnologists. His research seeks to develop a predictive understanding of species invasions, using a combination of field experiments, empirical modelling and meta-analysis.

**PROSANTA CHAKRABARTY**, BSc(Agr)'00, was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for "distinguished contributions to evolutionary biology, focusing on the bioluminescent systems and historical biogeography of freshwater fishes, and for effectively communicating science to the public." He is an associate professor of ichthyology, evolution and systematics at Louisiana State University and the curator of ichthyology at LSU's Museum of Natural Science.

## ARCHITECTURE

**MOSHE SAFDIE**, BArch'61, LL'D'82, is the 2019 recipient of Israel's Wolf Prize for Architecture. The award recognizes his trailblazing Habitat 67 project in Montreal, the global impact of his international projects, and his many major works in Israel, including the Yad Vashem Museum, Ben Gurion International Airport, the city of Modi'in, the Yitzhak Rabin Center in Tel Aviv, and the Mamilla Complex in Jerusalem. Winners of the Wolf Prize are selected by international committees.

**VIKRAM BHATT**, MArch'75, a professor of architecture at McGill, was named to the College of Fellows of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada (RAIC). He has done extensive research in the field of human settlements planning, urban design, housing and urban agriculture. He is currently





**MACKENZIE DAVIS**, BA'10, is seen here between Natalia Reyes and Linda Hamilton, two of her co-stars in *Terminator: Dark Fate*, the sixth (and possibly final) film in the *Terminator* franchise and the first to involve both Hamilton and Arnold Schwarzenegger since 1991's *Terminator 2: Judgement Day*. She played one of the leads in the TV series *Halt and Catch Fire* and has also appeared in the films *Tully*, *Always Shine* and *The Martian*. *Terminator: Dark Fate* opens in theatres in November.

working on the question of food security and urban sustainability both in North America and abroad, particularly in informal housing in developing countries. The RAIC bestows fellowships to its members in recognition of outstanding achievement. Criteria include design excellence, exceptional scholarly contribution, or distinguished service to the profession or the community.

## ARTS

**TIM BROADHEAD**, BA'64, LLD'15, was awarded a York University honorary doctor of laws degree last year in recognition of his contributions to the not-for-profit sector and the leadership role he has played in international development and public policy. He was the president and CEO of the J.W. McConnell Family Foundation from 1995 to 2011. Since retiring from the McConnell Foundation, he continues to serve on several foundation and not-for-profit boards, including the Stephen A. Jarislowsky and Ottawa Community Foundations and the Arctic Inspiration Prize Trust.

**MARY ANN LICHACZ-KARWATSKY**, BA'68, MEd'74, recently published *My Father's Store and Other Stories* (Longbridge Books), a memoir about her post-WWII childhood in Montreal (her Ukrainian-born father ran a grocery store on Beaubien Street). Prior to her retirement, she worked in schools around Montreal as a guidance counselor, and was an executive member of the Quebec Counselling Association.

**DIANA BRUNO**, BA'69, MA'78, DipEd-Tech'86, recently published *Lexique français-anglais de la cuisine et de la restauration*, a reference book that serves as a resource for food service and hospitality students to learn to communicate confidently in the workplace. The book contains classic and contemporary terms from French cuisine with their English translations, along with usage notes and other helpful tidbits.

**RICHARD LANDE**, BA'71, co-authored *Fundamentals of Canadian Trucking Law*, his ninth book on transportation law. The book addresses the new challenges and trends in the Canadian trucking industry, including driver shortages, electronic logs, and rising freight rates. He practices law in Ontario, and has served as the honorary consul general to Canada for the Comoros Islands for 10 years.

**MAY Q. WONG**, BA'78, published her second book, *City in Colour: Rediscovered Stories of Victoria's Multicultural Past* (Touchwood Editions). The book examines the surprisingly diverse backgrounds of many of the early settlers to Victoria, British Columbia, which included significant numbers of Hawaiians, Métis, African Americans, Jews, Chinese, and Japanese. Canada's first Jewish judge and its first Chinese female doctor were both born in Victoria.

**MARCY GOLDMAN**, BA'81, recently published her 10th cookbook, *The Newish Jewish Cookbook* (River Heart Press). It features a wide range of original takes on traditional Jewish fare. She has a professional pastry and baking diploma from the l'Hotellerie et Tourisme du Quebec and has contributed to *The New York Times*, *Bon Appétit Magazine*, *Food and Wine*, and other publications. Her website, Betterbaking.com, showcases her original recipes and baking techniques.

**GUY LAFOREST**, MA'81, PhD'87, is the executive director of the École nationale d'administration publique in Quebec City and the co-editor of two recent essay collections. *The Quebec Conference of 1864* (McGill-Queen's University Press) examines the important role played by that conference as Canada moved closer to Confederation. *Jean-Charles Bonenfant et l'esprit des institutions* (Presses de l'Université Laval) explores the contributions made by Bonenfant, an expert on Canadian and Quebec political institutions, who was (among other things) a onetime director of the National Assembly Library.

**CARISSIMA MATHEN**, BA'89, was awarded the University of Ottawa's 2017 Excellence in Media Relations Award for English Commentary. A professor of law at the university, her media work has dealt with some of the most critical legal issues in Canada, including sexual assault, physician-assisted dying, Senate reform, trial delays, the legalization of marijuana, and freedom of expression on social media.



**TRINA VARGO**, MA'89, recently published *Shenanigans: The US-Ireland Relationship in Uncertain Times* (Cavan Bridge Press). She is the founder of the US-Ireland Alliance, a Washington-based non-profit, and served as U.S. senator Edward Kennedy's foreign policy adviser for more than a decade. She has also advised Democratic nominees for president from Michael Dukakis through Barack Obama on Irish issues.

**DANIEL GOODWIN**, BA'91, recently published his second novel *The Art of Being Lewis* (Cormorant Books). The book focuses on a successful East Coast architect whose life begins to disintegrate after his beloved mentor dies in suspicious circumstances and a lawsuit threatens to ruin him. Two-time Scotiabank Giller Prize finalist David Bezmozgis describes the book as "a smart, funny and warmhearted novel in the spirit and lineage of Mordecai Richler."

**BRYAN QUINN**, BA'92, published his first novel, entitled *The Package*. A mystery/thriller that takes place primarily in Istanbul, the book centres on a jaded priest who discovers evidence of an explosive conspiracy stretching back millennia. Bryan received an Honorable Mention award in the worldwide *Writer's Digest* Short Story Competition in 2016. *The Package* is available on Amazon.

**JAKE BULLEN**, BA'93, is a partner in the Business Law Group at Cassels Brock and co-chair of its Private Equity Group. He was recently appointed by the Ontario Law Society to its Business Law Advisory Working Group to help create a competencies-based curriculum for continuing professional development (CPD) programming for all business lawyers in the province. He was one of 11 lawyers recognized by Chambers Canada in 2018 as leaders in private equity.

**DAVID MESSENGER**, BA'93, was appointed professor of history and chair of the Department of History at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. He had previously been at the University of Wyoming. He is the author of two books on the history of Spain and its foreign relations during and after the Second World War.

**JONAH BRUCKER-COHEN**, BA'97, is an artist and an assistant professor of digital media and networked culture at Lehman College (City University of New York – CUNY). One of his pieces, "America's Got No Talent," was part of an exhibition at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City. The exhibition, "Programmed: Rules, Codes, and Choreographies in Art, 1965-2018," ran from September 2018 to April 2019, and examined the use of programming and instructions in the creation of art.

**STEPHEN SCARFF**, MA'98, is a chaplain who works with Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, a not-for-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to the physical and psychological rehabilitation of active duty military personnel and veterans with disabilities through the therapeutic benefits of fly fishing.

**JESSICA TRISKO DARDEN**, BA'04, PhD'13, an assistant professor in the School of International Service at American University, and **ORA SZEKELY**, PhD'11, an associate professor of political science at Clark University, collaborated with Alexis Henshaw on *Insurgent Women: Female Combatants in Civil Wars*, a new book that explores the involvement of women in civil wars in Ukraine, the Middle East, and Colombia. The co-authors examine three important aspects of women's participation in armed groups: mobilization, participation in combat, and conflict cessation.

**SETH OFFENBACH**, BA'04, an assistant professor of history at Bronx Community College, recently published *The Conservative Movement and the Vietnam War: The Other Side of Vietnam* (Routledge Press). The book explores how the Vietnam War shaped the modern American conservative movement and how Christian evangelicals who supported the war began forming alliances with the more mainstream pro-war right.

**JESSICA L. PALMER**, BA'06, an associate with the law firm Norris McLaughlin, P.A., is the recipient of the 2019 Bowden, Byrne, McCormick Dedication Award from the Hunterdon County YMCA. The award recognizes outstanding dedication to the YMCA and to the community. Her legal practice focuses on environmental law and complex litigation.



**TIM RAHILLY**, MA'91, PhD'97, became the new president of Mount Royal University on May 1. He had been vice-provost and associate vice-president, students and international, at Simon Fraser University, where he played a key role in efforts to establish a new stadium and a new student union building, and helped create new policies on sexual violence, response to threat, academic integrity, and student misconduct.



**RICHARD KREITNER**, BA'12, published *Booked: A Traveler's Guide to Literary Locations Around the World*. The book is a roving meditation on literature and place and an armchair travel guide that explores 80 of the most iconic literary locations from all over the globe. These are places that can actually be visited, including the Central Park carousel from *The Catcher in the Rye*, Hamlet's castle in Denmark, and the Alabama courthouse in *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

**THOMAS D'ARCY WILLIAMS**, BA'15, was among 34 academically outstanding and socially committed U.S. citizens selected as 2019 Gates Cambridge Scholars. While studying at McGill, he played varsity soccer and co-founded a social business, Heart City Apparel, which used street art to support charities for the homeless. After graduating from McGill, he worked on global health policy for the Clinton Global Initiative and Population Services International and

then became a Peace Corps volunteer in Cameroon. He will pursue a master's of philosophy degree in public policy at the University of Cambridge.

## CONTINUING STUDIES

**NELSON GENTILETTI**, DipPublicAccounting'85, is now the chief operating and chief financial officer of Loop Industries. He had been the chief financial and development officer at Transcontinental Inc. Loop Industries specializes in breaking down waste PET plastic to create virgin-quality PET plastic that can be used for food-grade plastic packaging. Its customers include L'Oréal Group and PepsiCo.

## DENTISTRY

**PAUL KAVANAGH**, DDS'79, received the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Dental Association, which recognizes dental professionals who demonstrate outstanding contributions to dentistry and committed service to the field. His work and leadership with the Canadian veterans' community has also led to other forms of recognition, including the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Royal Canadian Legion's Certificate of Merit, and the Minister of Veterans Affairs Commendation.

## EDUCATION

**GORDON SCHMIDT**, BEd'77, became the new dean of the School of Health Professions at the New York Institute of Technology in January. He had been serving as interim dean for the previous six months and had been an associate dean at NYIT since 2017. He has been teaching and conducting research on topics associated with muscular capacity, metabolic diseases, and coronary risk analysis across many age groups for more than 30 years.

**MONA SUE WEISSMARK**, BEd'77, recently published *The Science of Diversity* (Oxford University Press), a book that uses a multidisciplinary approach to excavate the theories, principles and paradigms that illuminate our understanding of the issues surrounding human diversity, social equality and justice. She is an adjunct associate professor of psychiatry and behavioural sciences at Northwestern University and a visiting professor of psychology at Harvard University.

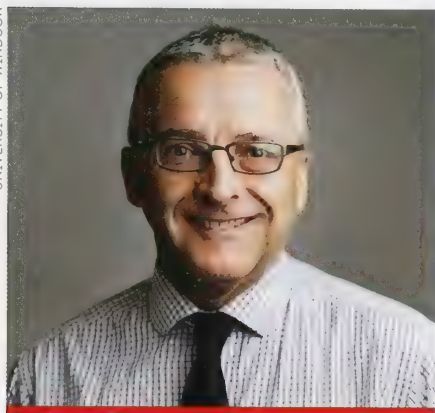
**JOHN MACDONALD**, BA'01, BEd'03, a teacher at Pauline Johnson Collegiate and Vocational School in Brantford, Ontario, was recognized by the Dreamcatcher Charitable Foundation last fall for his work with young people. The foundation celebrates the achievements of Indigenous peoples across Canada and supports youth programming that develops leadership. John, who is Mohawk and a former defensive lineman with the Hamilton Tiger Cats, was honoured for his commitment to students facing adversity and for his contributions to his school's SOAR program (Strength, Opportunity, Achievement and Results), which supports the needs of student athletes.

**ISABELLE PROVENCHER**, BEd'06, recently published *Terrain de jeux pour petits et grands* (Les Éditions du CHU Ste-Justine). Inspired by playgrounds, the book offers more than 50 exercises which can be done alone or with a child to promote physical activity and family bonding. Isabelle teaches physical education at the CEGEP level in Gaspé.

## ENGINEERING

**LORNE TROTTIER**, BEng'70, MEng'73, DSc'06, will receive an honorary doctor of science from Simon Fraser University in the fall. He is being recognized for his contributions as an innovator, entrepreneur and philanthropist, and for the work of the Trottier Foundation, a leading Canadian supporter of research and education in the sciences.

UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR



**ROB GORDON**, BEng'82, will become the new president of the University of Windsor on September 1. He will be leaving his current position as Wilfrid Laurier University's provost and vice-president: academic. He had previously been Laurier's vice-president: research and played a significant role in helping Laurier achieve a 23% increase in total new research funding, the second-fastest growth of any university in Canada.





**YOSHUA BENGIO**, BEng'86, MSc'88, PhD'91, is one of the three co-recipients of the Association for Computing Machinery's 2018 A.M. Turing Award. The prize, worth \$1 million (U.S.), recognizes his pivotal contributions to conceptual and engineering breakthroughs that have made deep neural networks a critical component of computing. In recent years, the deep learning methods he helped pioneer have been responsible for major advances in computer vision, speech recognition, natural language processing, and other applications. He is the Canada Research Chair in Statistical Learning Algorithms at the Université de Montréal and the scientific director of Mila, the Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute.

**DAVID HACCOUN**, PhD'74, is the recipient of the 2018 Stuart F. Meyer Memorial Award from the Vehicular Technology Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) for his "outstanding research contributions to error control coding and dedicated services to the society." It is one of the society's highest honours. A professor emeritus (retired) at Polytechnique Montréal, he is a life fellow of the IEEE, a fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada, and a fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering.

#### LAW

**JEAN ANDRÉ ÉLIE**, BCL'65, was appointed to the Order of Canada as a member "for his ongoing contributions to governance in the arts and for his philanthropy in support of numerous causes." A longtime supporter of the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, he chaired or co-chaired many fundraising campaigns for the orchestra and played an important role in the creation of the OSM Standard Life Competition for young Canadian musicians. He is a member of the boards of directors for the OSM and Alimentation Couche-Tard.

**JULIUS GREY**, BA'70, BCL'71, MA'73, a litigation lawyer and human rights specialist with Grey Casgrain, is the author of *Capitalism and the Alternatives* (McGill-Queen's University Press), a book that offers a fundamental rethinking of the social, political and economic foundations of modern industrial society, while championing economic equality as a fundamental social goal. A member of the McGill Faculty of Law from 1977 until 2002, he was the president of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation from 1985 until 1988. He has more than 40 years of experience and practices in many areas of law.

**STEPHEN HALPERIN**, BCL'75, LLB'78, received the F.R. Scott Award from McGill's Faculty of Law "for distinguished contributions to McGill and to the law." Previous winners include several Supreme Court of Canada Justices, a Canadian governor general and a federal minister of justice. He recently began a second five-year term as a member of McGill's Board of Governors, after serving for more than 15 years as a member of the Law Faculty Advisory Board. He serves as counsel at Goodmans LLP, where he had previously been a partner for more than 30 years. He was named as one of the top 30 corporate governance lawyers in the world in the 2018 edition of *Euromoney's Best of the Best*, and as one of the top 30 mergers and acquisitions lawyers in the world in the 2017 edition of that publication.

**HUBERT LACROIX**, BCL'76, MBA'81, is now the chair of the Blue Metropolis Foundation. The Montreal-based non-profit produces a popular annual literary festival and offers a wide range of educational and social programs. A strategic counsel with the law firm Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP, he was the president and CEO of CBC/Radio-Canada from January 2008 to July 2018.

**PATRICE ABRIOUX**, LLB'80, formerly a judge of the Supreme Court of British Columbia, was appointed a justice of the British Columbia Court of Appeal. He practiced primarily in the field of civil litigation in Vancouver B.C. until he was appointed to the Supreme Court of B.C. in 2011. In 2014, he was presented with France's Ordre National du Mérite for his contributions to francophone communities in B.C.

**HOWARD LEIBOVICH**, BCom'90, BCL'94, LLB'94, was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Justice of Ontario, and a judge ex officio of the Court of Appeal for Ontario. He is the former director of the Crown Law Office-Criminal, which is responsible for virtually all criminal appeals of indictable matters in Ontario, and a former chair of the Ontario Criminal Conviction Review Committee. He was also a member of the Death Investigation Oversight Council, an independent body that oversees Ontario's death investigation system.



**MARTIN F. SHEEHAN**, BCL'90, LLB'90, who had been a lawyer at Fasken Martineau Dumoulin LLP, was appointed a judge of the Superior Court of Quebec for the district of Montreal. He was co-leader of Fasken Martineau's National Litigation and Dispute Resolution practice group and taught contract law at the École du Barreau du Québec. In 2018, he was given the distinction of *Advocatus Emeritus*, an award granted to members of the Bar of Quebec who have distinguished themselves by the excellence of their professional career and their exceptional contribution to the profession.

**CHRISTIAN IMMER**, BCL'91, LLB'91, who was a partner at Sheahan et associés LLP, was appointed as a puisne judge of the Superior Court of Quebec for the district of Montreal. He has provided training in environmental law to the Canadian Bar Association and the Jeune Barreau du Québec, and has represented clients before the Superior Court and Court of Appeal of Quebec, the Federal Court and the Supreme Court of Canada.

**GEORGE R. LOCKE**, BEng'87, BCL'91, LLB'91, formerly a judge of the Federal Court, was appointed a judge of the Federal Court of Appeal. Prior to his judicial appointments, he was an associate and then a partner in the Intellectual Property Group at the Montreal office of Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP, formerly Ogilvy Renault LLP. He is a fellow of the Intellectual Property Institute of Canada.

**LEV ALEXEEV**, BCL/LLB'02, has joined NOVAlex Law Firm as a partner in litigation and dispute resolution. Prior to joining NOVAlex, he was a senior legal counsel at Pomerleau Inc., and practiced for 12 years at Stikeman Elliott. NOVAlex was co-founded in 2016 by **SOPHIE TREMBLAY**, BCL/LLB'10. For every hour of legal services provided to a business client, the NOVAlex legal team offers one hour of legal services on a pro bono basis to eligible clients (low-income citizens, NPOs and start-ups).

**MEGAN STEPHENS**, BA'94, BCL/LLB'02, is the new executive director and general counsel for the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund (LEAF). She clerked for Chief Justice Beverley McLachlin at the Supreme Court of Canada, and has extensive litigation experience as a crown prosecutor with special expertise in cases involving sex work, human trafficking and sexual assault. LEAF works to advance the substantive equality rights of women and girls through litigation, law reform, and public education.

**ANNA LOPARCO**, BCL/LLB'03, formerly a partner at Dentons LLP, was appointed to the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta. As a civil litigator, she practiced in a broad range of areas of law including intellectual property, constitutional, education, administrative, professional liability, corporate commercial, insurance, and privacy.

## MANAGEMENT

**GEOFFREY CANN**, BCom'84, recently published *Bits, Bytes and Barrels: The Digital Transformation of Oil and Gas*. The book explores the potential impact of digital technologies on the oil and gas sector and offers a roadmap to help decision-makers at all levels of the industry take meaningful action toward digital adaptation. The producer of the *Digital Oil and Gas* podcast, he has 30 years of experience as an advisor to energy, technology, and oil and gas companies.

**DARREN ENTWISTLE**, MBA'88, LLD'13, was appointed a member of the Order of Canada in recognition of "his leadership in fostering corporate social responsibility in the telecommunications industry." As the president and CEO of Telus, he has overseen the company's transformation from being a regional telephone company into becoming a national data and wireless leader.

**CRAIG LOUDON**, BCom'94, became the new chief financial officer of Indigo Books & Music in February. He had been the company's executive vice president and chief supply chain officer.

**BRUNO GUILMETTE**, MBA'95, became the new vice president and chief financial officer of Boralex Inc. in January. Prior to this new position, he had been working as the interim chief investment officer at the Canada Infrastructure Bank and continues to serve on the bank's board of directors. Boralex develops, builds and operates renewable energy power facilities in Canada, France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

**DANNY DI PERNA**, MBA'97, is now the president of Bombardier Transportation, the rail equipment division of Bombardier, Inc. He joined Bombardier in 2018 and previously led the company's Aerostructures and Engineering Services segment.

**CINDY BLACKSTOCK**, MMgmt'03, was the 2018 recipient of the Lynn Factor Stand Up for Kids National Award. The award, presented by the Children's Aid Foundation of Canada, recognizes extraordinary Canadians who have made an indelible mark on the child welfare landscape. She is a professor of social work at McGill and the executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada.

**STEPHANIE SHUM**, BCom'09, played the role of Kendra in the First Folio Theatre's production of *All Childish Things* in Chicago. Running from January 26 to February 24, the comedic play follows a group of life-long friends and *Star Wars* fans as they plan a heist to steal *Star Wars* toys from a warehouse. Her previous theatre credits include several major roles in productions like *Plainclothes* (Broken Nose Theatre), *The Crucible* (Steppenwolf), and *Merge* at The New Colony, where she is the co-artistic director.



**ERIN GODARD**, BCom'11, **JAY GOODIS**, BCom'06, and **SARAH KEYES**, BCom'10, all received the Emerging Leader Award from the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario. The prize recognizes exceptional achievements by CPAs under the age of 34. Erin is the co-founder of FinanceYOU and Haystack Africa, initiatives aimed at providing training programs in East Africa. Jay is the co-founder and CEO of Tax Templates Inc., which develops templates for addressing complex tax calculations. Sarah is a sustainability principal at CPA Canada who is a sought-after speaker on the subject of how accounting should address climate change and sustainability.

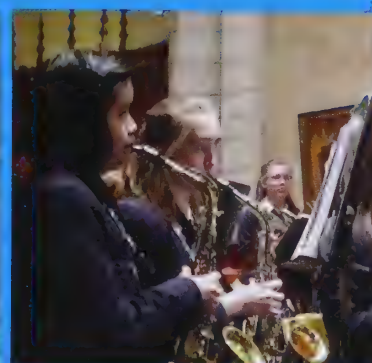
## MEDICINE

**BLUMA GOLDBERG**, Dip(OTh)'63, published *The Relationship between Engagement in Meaningful Activities and Quality of Life in Persons Disabled by Mental Illness*, her master's project at the University of Alberta (1997). It includes the Engagement in Meaningful Activities Survey (EMAS), which she created with input from her graduate supervisor Sharon Brintnell, and which has been translated into several languages. Her career included hospital, community and academic work in Montreal and Edmonton. She is now happily retired, but remains a strong advocate for community services for the mentally ill, with particular interest in the Clubhouse Society of Edmonton and area.

**LILY HECHTMAN**, BSc'63, MDCM'67, DipPsych'72, a professor of psychiatry and pediatrics at McGill, **JAMES BROPHY**, BEng'73, GrDip-Epid&Health'93, PhD'99, a professor of medicine and epidemiology at McGill, and **NADA JABADO**, a professor of pediatrics at McGill, were all elected fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2018. This is one of the highest honours for individuals in the Canadian health sciences community.



# WHAT GIRLS' EDUCATION CAN BE.



[trafalgar.qc.ca](http://trafalgar.qc.ca)



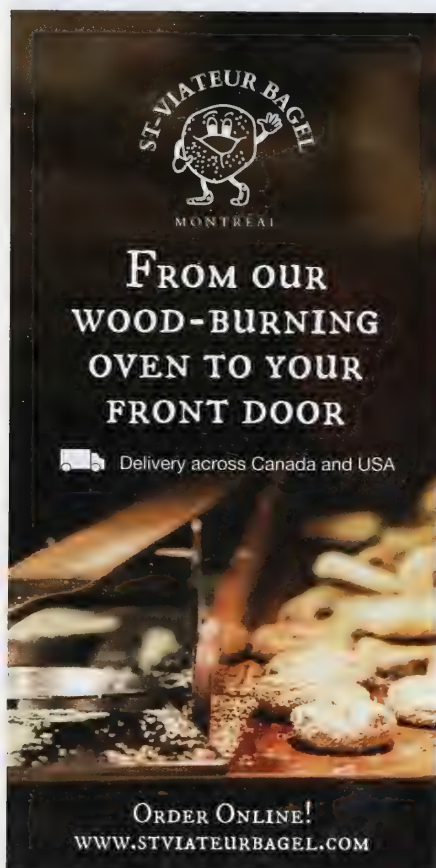
**Trafalgar**  
School for Girls

3495 Simpson St. (corner Dr. Penfield)  
Montreal, QC, H3G 2J7



**JAMES C. CHAN**, MDCM'64, is a professor of pediatrics at Tufts University and the director of research at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland, Maine. He is also the editor of the recently published *Clinical Disorders of the Kidney* (Elsevier). The book offers a comprehensive and up-to-date look at a variety of kidney disorders and includes contributions from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre's Martin Bitzen, **BETHANY FOSTER**, BSc'90, and Paul Goodyer.

**LAWRENCE STEIN**, BSc'64, MDCM'68, a post-retirement associate professor of diagnostic radiology at McGill, received the 2018 CAR Gold Medal Award from the Canadian Association of Radiologists (CAR). In awarding him the prize, CAR paid tribute to his productivity as a researcher, his commitment to teaching, and his outstanding contributions to the advancement of radiology as a specialty.



**DAVID ROSENBLATT**, BSc'68, MDCM'70, received the 2018 Founders' Award for Career Achievement from the Canadian College of Medical Geneticists. McGill's Dodd Q. Chu and Family Chair in Medical Genetics, he has made major contributions to our knowledge of inherited metabolic diseases, particularly in the genetics and treatment of defects of the vitamins B12 and folic acid. He played an instrumental role in the creation of the Department of Medical Genetics at the Jewish General Hospital.

**CHUNG OWYANG**, BSc'68, MDCM'72, received the Mayo Clinic's 2018 Distinguished Alumni Award. He is the H. Marvin Pollard Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Michigan, where he is also the chief of the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology and the director of the Pollard Institute for Medical Research. He has published more than 300 original research and review articles and has received continuous funding from the National Institutes of Health for more than 30 years.

**GERALD FRIED**, BSc'71, MDCM'75, was awarded a Meritorious Service Cross (Civil Division) by the Governor General of Canada. The honour highlights remarkable contributions in many different fields of endeavour, from advocacy initiatives and health care services, to research and humanitarian efforts. McGill's Edward W. Archibald Professor of Surgery, he is recognized for establishing Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) as a clinical and academic program at McGill, and for the role that he and his group have played in developing a simulator-based program to teach and assess fundamental skills in MIS that has become the gold standard around the world. He chairs McGill's Department of Surgery and is the surgeon-in-chief of the McGill University Health Centre.

**BARBARA HALES**, BSc'70, PhD'77, was the recipient of the 2018 Edward W. Carney Distinguished Service Award. This prize was awarded by the Teratology Society, a multidisciplinary group of scientists who study birth

defects, reproduction, and disorders of developmental origin. She was recognized for the wide-reaching impact that she has had on the field of developmental and reproductive toxicology, and for her many years of membership and dedication to the organization.

**NANCY FEELEY**, BScN'79, MSc(A)'86, PhD'01, was presented with the 2018 Excellence in Nursing Research Award from the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing (CASN). She is recognized as a leading Canadian researcher in the area of parenting of preterm infants, and in the study of fathers' experiences in the neonatal intensive care unit. She is an associate professor of nursing at McGill and the co-director of RRIISIQ (Réseau de recherche en interventions en sciences infirmières du Québec/Quebec Nursing Intervention Research Network).

**GARY MCCARRAGHER**, BSc'82, MDCM'86, a hospice physician living in Florida, published his second novel. *The Imperfect Offering* is a medical thriller that recounts the story of a well-respected hospice physician in the Boston area who becomes involved in an ethical dilemma while caring for a patient dying of cancer. The book is available through Amazon.

**MARK SMILOVITCH**, MDCM'85, was named to the 2018-2019 Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence in recognition of outstanding contributions to education in McGill's Faculty of Medicine. He also received the 2018 George Fraser Memorial Award in acknowledgement of exemplary clinical practice and patient care in the McGill University Health Centre's Division of Cardiology. Mark is an associate professor in the Department of Medicine at McGill, a faculty member with McGill Programs in Whole Person Care, and a former director of McGill's Adult Cardiology Training Program.





**JADE RAYMOND**, BSc'98, recently joined Google as a vice president and will lead Stadia Games and Entertainment, Google's new game studio, which will develop original games for its new streaming platform, Stadia. She has had senior management roles at Ubisoft and Electronic Arts. She played a major role in the creation of the *Assassin's Creed* franchise, and has been involved in several other highly successful franchises, including *The Sims*, *Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell*, and *Watch Dogs*. She received the Andrew Yoon Legend Award in January from the New York Videogame Critics Circle for her contributions to the world of gaming.

**JEANNIE HAGGERTY**, MSc'87, PhD'98, a professor of family medicine at McGill, was named the 2018 Family Medicine Researcher of the Year by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). She holds an endowed research chair in family and community medicine at St. Mary's Hospital. Her research examines the accessibility and quality of primary care, particularly the impact of health system policies and reforms.

**ROBYN TAMBLYN**, PhD'89, was awarded the Peggy Leatt Knowledge and Impact Award. The prize, awarded by the University of Toronto Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, recognizes achievements in developing transformative evidence on ways and means to improve healthcare and health systems. A professor of medicine and James McGill Chair at McGill, she was also selected to present the annual Justice Emmett Hall Lecture at the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research's 2018 conference.

**ROBERT ORFALY**, MDCM'91, is the new chair of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons Board of Councilors. An associate professor in the Department of Orthopaedics & Rehabilitation at Oregon Health and Science University, his areas of interest include shoulder arthroplasty, rotator cuff disorders, upper extremity trauma, shoulder biomechanics, and orthopaedic implant design. He is a past-president of the Oregon Medical Association and the Oregon Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

**HEIDI MCBRIDE**, BSc'91, PhD'96, was named the 2018 Woman of Distinction in Research and Innovation by the Women's Y Foundation in Montreal. She is McGill's Canada Research Chair in Mitochondrial Cell Biology. Her work has made major contributions to our understanding of the behaviour of mitochondria within cells and on the control of their activity. Her lab examines the complex problems of neurodegenerative diseases like ALS, Parkinson's, Huntington's, multiple sclerosis, and various forms of ataxias.

**GIL BUB**, BSc'91, PhD'00, an associate professor of physiology at McGill, received the Jean Coutu Group Award of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research from the Heart and Stroke Foundation. The annual award, valued at \$50,000, is presented to an experienced researcher for their work on cardiac arrhythmia.

**GEORGE THANASSOULIS**, BSc'97, MSc'11, an associate professor of medicine at McGill and the director of preventive and genomic cardiology at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), received the Heart and Stroke Foundation's \$10,000 John J. Day M.D. Award of Excellence. This award of excellence in research is presented annually to the researcher from McGill who received the highest evaluation in the grant-in-aid competition in cardiovascular research.

**SASHA BERNATSKY**, MSc'02, PhD'05, received the 2018 Knowledge Translation (KT) Practice Award from the Arthritis Alliance of Canada. A professor of medicine at McGill, her research focuses on outcomes in rheumatic diseases, including morbidity, mortality, environmental factors and the economic impact of conditions such as systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and rheumatoid arthritis (RA). She has established herself as a leader in research and knowledge translation in the field, publishing an average of 20 papers annually.

**EMILY MCDONALD**, MDCM'09, MSc'16, was named the 2018 winner of the Prix Jeune femme en sport, santé et mieux-être by the Women's Y Foundation. She is an assistant professor of medicine at McGill and an attending physician at the MUHC. She is the co-creator of MedSafer, an electronic software that helps guide clinicians through the process of safe prescribing.

**BINDU SURESH**, MDCM'12, recently published her first novel *26 Knots* (Invisible Publishing). A Montreal-based pediatrician and former journalist, her book is centred in Montreal as it follows interlocking love stories and examines themes of obsession, betrayal, grief and hope.



**ÉVELYNE VINET**, PhD'15, an associate professor of medicine at McGill, was the 2018 recipient of the Canadian Rheumatology Association's (CRA) Young Investigator Award. Over the past few years, she has put together the world's largest cohort of children born to women with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) to evaluate their long-term outcomes. Her research also examines important drug exposures during pregnancy in rheumatic diseases. The CRA prize recognizes a young Canadian investigator who has contributed significant, original research in rheumatology.

**DAINA CRAFA**, PhD'18, is a new assistant professor at Aarhus University's Interacting Minds Centre (IMC) in Denmark. Her research investigates how the social world shapes typical human behaviours, brain and (epi)genetic processes, and how these processes vary across cultural groups and among clinical populations. The interdisciplinary IMC involves researchers from the humanities, social and cognitive sciences, biology and clinical research who study the topics of cognition, communication and choice.

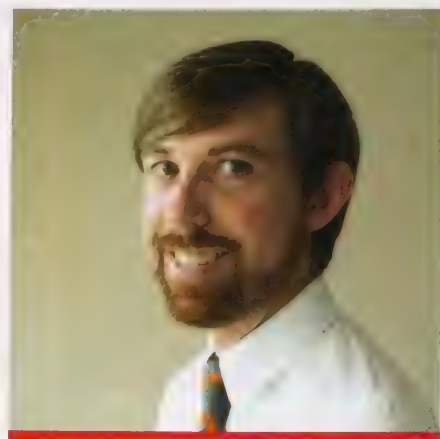


**WENDY THOMSON**, BSW'76, MSW'77, will become the new vice-chancellor of the University of London in July. A professor of social work at McGill and the former director of the School of Social Work, her areas of research expertise include public service reform, health policy and child welfare. Before joining McGill, she had served as the chief advisor on public service reform for the prime minister of the United Kingdom. More recently, she has been the managing director of Norfolk County Council in the United Kingdom, serving a population of 900,000, with a budget of £1.4B and 6,000 staff.

## MUSIC

**JAN JÄRVLEPP**, MMus'78, is one of the featured composers on *PRISMA Vol. 2*, a new release from Navona Records that shines a spotlight on the work of five composers of contemporary orchestral music. The album includes his *Camerata Music*, a bright, tonal piece inspired by the vallenato styles of folk music in Colombia. Aside from his composition work, he is a teacher and a cellist with the Ottawa Symphony Orchestra.

**ERICA PHARE-BERGH**, MMus'94, is the choral director of the Voices in Motion Choir (ViM) in Victoria, B.C. ViM is an intergenerational choir for people living with memory loss and their caregivers. The project involves a multidisciplinary team of researchers at the University of Victoria who are studying the social, physical, and cognitive benefits of singing in choirs. It also involves students at St. Andrews High School and Pacific Christian School, and Island Health.



**NICK SQUIRE**, MMus'08, won the 2018 Grammy Award for Best Engineered Album, Classical, for his work on *Shostakovich: Symphonies Nos. 4 & 11* by Andris Nelsons and the Boston Symphony Orchestra. As the lead recording engineer at the Boston Symphony, he regularly works with the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Boston Pops, and the Boston Symphony Chamber Players.

**CHARLENE PAULS**, MMus'94, received the Ontario Arts Council's 2018 Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting. She is the associate artistic director of the Oakville Choir for Children and Youth and conducts its Raise Her Voice chamber choir, which promotes empowerment for young female leaders. She is also the music director at Oakville's Anglican Church of the Incarnation. The \$10,000 Leslie Bell Prize is awarded every two years to an emerging professional conductor who is a resident of Ontario and works with a professional, semi-professional or community choir.

**ANDREW CRUST**, MMus'12, will become the new assistant conductor of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in September of 2019. He will conduct a large variety of programming with the VSO, including subscription concerts, concerts for children, Pops, and more. He had recently been the associate conductor of the Portland Symphony Orchestra.



**RACHELLE JENKINS**, MMus'13, has produced the *Audition Playbook*, a two-part guide and workbook for the planning and preparation of orchestral auditions. Designed for musicians of all levels and instruments, the *Audition Playbook* eschews a "one-size-fits-all" approach and helps musicians to carefully create and implement their own plans from start to finish. To find out more, visit [auditionplaybook.com](http://auditionplaybook.com)

## RELIGIOUS STUDIES

**ELIZABETH GILLAN MUIR**, BTh'80, PhD'90, recently published two books. *A Woman's History of the Christian Church* traces female leadership in Christian churches over the centuries, from the first century female apostle Junia, to today's female ecclesiastics around the world. *Air-Crazy Too* is a children's book and the sequel to *Air-Crazy*. The book offers biographies of remarkable women pilots, skydivers and balloonists. For more information, visit [lizmuir.ca](http://lizmuir.ca)

## SCIENCE

**PEARL HEATLEY PETERKIN**, BSc'49, PhD'92, is marking the 70th anniversary of the completion of her bachelor's degree this year. She retired from a career as research scientist in 1993, having spent 20 years doing research on listeria in foods with Health Canada. During her 25 years of active retirement, she has been on hiking trips in Canada, the U.S., Europe and New Zealand.

**JOHN S. BULGER**, BSc'64, DipMan'80, graduated from the University of Calgary with the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Music in November 2018.

**JOE SCHWARCZ**, BSc'69, PhD'74, the director of the McGill Office for Science and Society, received an honorary doctor of science during Simon Fraser University's spring convocation ceremonies in June. He has received numerous awards for teaching chemistry and for interpreting science for the public. He hosts *The Dr. Joe Show* on Montreal's CJAD and is the author of several best-selling books about science.


**JAMES GILL**, BSc'71, MSc'76, was among the 2019 inductees for the Canadian Mining Hall of Fame. He was recognized for his role as the driving force behind the creation of Aur Resources. It became a global mining company with more than 2,000 employees before being acquired by Teck Resources in 2007 in a \$4.1-billion transaction. Another 2019 inductee was the late **BRIAN MEIKLE**, Sc'55, PhD'59, a geologist and mining executive who played a key role in the success of Barrick Gold.

**GILBERT LAPORTE**, BSc'71, was appointed to the Order of Canada as a member "for his contributions to the advancement of decision science and the development of new methods in operational research." The Canada Research Chair in Distribution Management at HEC Montréal, he is one of the world's most prolific authors in the fields of operational research and management sciences, having written or co-authored 19 books and more than 500 articles.

**LINDA GILLAM**, BSc'72, the Dorothy and Lloyd Huck Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine at Morristown Medical Center/Atlantic Health System, received the 2019 Master of the ACC (American College of Cardiology) Award. The prize recognizes and honors fellows of the American College of Cardiology who have consistently contributed to the goals and programs of the college and who have provided leadership in important college activities. It is her second consecutive top ACC honor — last year, she received the ACC Gifted Educator Award.

**THEO VAN DE VEN**, PhD'76, a professor of chemistry at McGill, received the 2018 John S. Bates Memorial Gold Medal, awarded to a member of the Pulp and Paper Technical Association of Canada for long-term contributions to the industry. His research focuses on the fundamentals of colloid and interface science and their relations to papermaking chemistry.

**SHAUN LOVEJOY**, PhD'81, a professor of physics at McGill, was awarded the European Geosciences Union's 2019 Lewis Fry Richardson Medal. The prize recognizes exceptional contributions to nonlinear geosciences. His new book, *Weather, Macroweather, and the Climate* (Oxford University Press), is an insider's attempt to explain as simply as possible how to understand the atmospheric variability that occurs over an astonishing range of scales: from millimeters to the size of the planet, from milliseconds to billions of years.



From  
**\$29**  
per pers./  
per night

**FOR RENT**

14 HOUSES AT THE BASE OF MONT-SAINTE-ANNE

30 MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN QUEBEC CITY  
GROUPS OF 12 TO 80 PEOPLE  
2, 3, 5, 7-NIGHT STAY

1 800 461-2030  
[WWW.CHALETSVILLAGE.CA](http://WWW.CHALETSVILLAGE.CA)

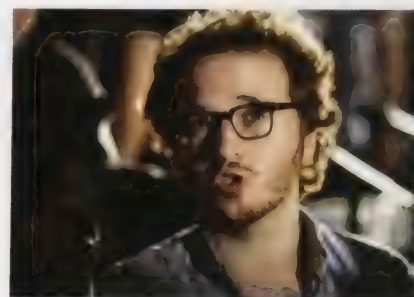


**CHAO-JUN LI**, PhD'92, McGill's Canada Research Chair in Green/Organic Chemistry, received the Canadian Society for Chemistry's 2018 Alfred Bader Award. The prize recognizes excellence in research in organic chemistry by a scientist who is currently working in Canada. One of the country's leading experts in green chemistry, he was listed as one of the world's most highly cited scientists by Thomson Reuters/Clarivate Analytics (2014–2017).

### SOCIAL WORK

**MARION BOGO**, BA'63, MSW'65, received an honorary doctor of laws from Memorial University at its 2018 spring convocation. Throughout her career she has provided leadership in the development of pedagogy for social

work. Her contributions have attracted international attention and she provides extensive consultation to schools of social work throughout the world as they transform their curriculum to develop effective practitioners. An officer of the Order of Canada, she is a professor at the University of Toronto's Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work.



### ERRATUM

In our 2018-19 winter issue, we relayed the news that Christian Lander, BA'01, was part of a team of writers and producers nominated for an Emmy Award for Outstanding Comedy Series for their work on the TV show *Blackish*. That part was true. Unfortunately, we ran the wrong photo. Here is what Christian really looks like (we hope).

We're always interested in what our graduates are up to.

Please send your news to us at:

McGill News

1430 Peel Street, Montreal, QC, H3A 3T3

Email: [news.alumni@mcgill.ca](mailto:news.alumni@mcgill.ca)

The submissions we receive may be edited and/or shortened.

**MAKE THE MOST  
OF YOUR  
McGILL NETWORK**

DISCOVER **McGILLCONNECT**,  
WHERE YOU CAN MEET INDUSTRY  
EXPERTS, MENTOR YOUNG ALUMNI,  
OR FIND IN-DEMAND TALENT. ALL ON  
THIS EXCLUSIVE MCGILL PLATFORM.

SIGN UP NOW AT:  
**JOIN.MCGILLCONNECT.CA**







## Join influential leaders BECOME AN AMBASSADOR

“There is a lot of positive impact you get from organizing conferences, in terms of personal visibility as a scientist in your community, which opens a lot of doors for you. This allows you, even at very early stages in your career, to get opportunities you wouldn't get otherwise. And since you get help from the Palais des congrès, Tourisme Montréal and professional conference organizers, it's not that much work.”

**Fabrice Labeau**

Interim Deputy Provost (Student Life & Learning)  
McGill University  
Emeritus Ambassador

[congresmtl.com/ambassadorsclub](http://congresmtl.com/ambassadorsclub)



AMBASSADORS'  
CLUB

OF THE PALAIS  
DES CONGRÈS  
DE MONTRÉAL



Palais des congrès  
de Montréal





THE GIFT OF  
A LIFETIME

## A LEGACY THAT SINGS



Brian Meirett, Montreal

Acclaimed choral conductor Wayne Riddell, BMus'60, DMus'14, has given the joy of music to so many – whether they are singing under his baton or listening in an audience.

And he's not done supporting choral music at the Schulich School of Music.

A music student at McGill in the 1950s, Riddell returned to teach in 1968. "The music school was very small then," he recalls. "Whether you played the violin or the flute or whatever, you sang in the choir. That was the only way we could have a choir. That was challenging and enjoyable."

With the future of the School in mind, Riddell will honour his late partner's legacy as a patron of the arts through a bequest. The Norman Beckow Choral Excellence Endowment Fund will allow the Director of Choral Studies to bring in guest artists and conductors, and launch other special projects.

Riddell also plans to further support the Wayne Riddell Choral Award, established by his friends and colleagues, which provides a scholarship to a choral student.

"I am humbled that an award was created in my name. I'm absolutely amazed at how many people have contributed to it. I'm hoping the same will happen with the Norman Beckow Fund."

Riddell's distinguished career has included roles as chorus master of the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, founder of the esteemed Tudor Singers and organist-choirmaster at several Montreal churches. Under his direction, the Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul received the inaugural Healey-Willan Prize for choral performance from the Canada Council for the Arts. He is also a member of the Order of Canada.

“Student awards help the University attract students who might not otherwise be able to come here. That’s wonderful.”

Riddell received a scholarship as a student and recognizes how crucial this funding is. "It has absolutely grown and continues growing. Student awards help the University attract students who might not otherwise be able to come here. That's wonderful."



## 1930s

**ROBERT WIENER**, DDS'36,  
at Montreal, on February 17, 2019.

## 1940s

**PAUL D. TUTTLE**, BEng'40,  
at Tuttle, Tex., on May 9, 2019.

**WILFRED SHUCHAT**, BA'41,  
at Montreal, on December 27, 2018.

**DORA C. HART**, DipPE'41,  
at Vancouver, B.C., on January 13, 2019.

**A. LEONARD GRIFFITH**, BA'42,  
at Toronto, on April 4, 2019.

**NATHAN KALICHMAN**, BSc'43, MDCM'44,  
at Chicago, Ill., on October 12, 2018.

**ISOBEL ROWLANDS**, BA'46,  
at Vancouver, B.C., on May 6, 2019.

**BEATE ANHALT**, BSc'46,  
at Toronto, on January 16, 2019.

**WILLIAM P. WILDER**, BCom'46,  
at Toronto, on March 23, 2019.

**MAY BROWN**, BSc(PE)'47,  
at Vancouver, B.C., on March 1, 2019.

**ALBERT M. POLONSKY**, BSc'47,  
at Montreal, on October 30, 2018.

**TERRY VAN PATTTER**, BSc'47, MDCM'49,  
at Midland, Ont., on December 19, 2018.

**ISOBEL WELSMAN**, BSc'47,  
at Barrie, Ont., on February 3, 2019.

**EMILE JOHN COUREY**, BSc'48, BCom'50,  
at Montreal, on February 8, 2019.

**JANET L. GALE**, Dip(PTh)'48,  
at Sherbrooke, Que., on February 25, 2019.

**BERNARD J. MACDOUGALL**, BEng'48,  
at Burlington, Ont., on December 8, 2018.

**FREDA D. LEFFEL**, BA'48, MEd'76,  
at White Plains, New York, on December 5, 2018.

**GEORGES A. POULIOT**, BCL'49,  
at Montreal, on May 8, 2019.

**DORIS A. HOWELL**, MDCM'49,  
at San Diego, Calif., on November 23, 2018.

**BERNARD G. KUHN**, BEng'49, MEng'50,  
at Ramona, Calif., on December 19, 2018.

**DUNCAN MCGEACHY**, BSc(PE)'49,  
at Fredericton, N.B., on January 12, 2019.

## 1950s

**SHIRLEY FRIEND**, BSc(Agr)'50,  
at Vancouver, B.C., on December 15, 2018.

**MIRIAM MORRIS**, BA'50,  
at Montreal, on April 1, 2019.

**WYNDHAM A. STROVER**, BCL'50,  
at Montreal, on November 25, 2018.

**JOHN B. BEWICK**, MDCM'51,  
at Saint John, N.B., on October 30, 2018.

**PIERRE J. JUTRAS**, BSc(Agr)'51,  
at Sherbrooke, Que., on December 4, 2018.

**MICHAEL LAFFIN**, DDS'51,  
at Sydney, N.S., on May 23, 2019.

**ELIZABETH ANN JOHNSON**, BSc'52,  
at Toronto, on March 9, 2019.

**FERNAND MARTIN**, BA'52, MA'58, PhD'62,  
at St-Hyacinthe, Que., on January 10, 2019.

**GUY CHAMPAGNE**, BEng'53, DipM&BA'60,  
at Cowansville, Que., on February 21, 2019.

**JOHN M. SCOTT**, BA'53,  
at Magog, Que., on December 20, 2018.

**JOHN N. BARBER**, BEng'55,  
at Kingston, Ont., on April 3, 2019.

**E. EDWARD LISTER**, BSc(Agr)'55, MSc'57,  
at Lake Country, B.C., on December 23, 2018.

**GERASSIMOS FRANGATOS**, PhD'56,  
at Moorestown, N.J., on April 26, 2019.

**JAMES B. HARKNESS**, BCom'56,  
at Victoria, B.C., on January 19, 2019.

**JOSEPH E. BLUSTEIN**, BSc'57, MDCM'61, Dip Psych'67,  
at Thunder Bay, Ont., on November 9, 2018.

**ROBERT E. FLYNN**, BEng'57,  
in Illinois on April 16, 2017.

**RICHARD A.M. HUTCHISON**, BA'57,  
at London, Ont., on February 18, 2019.

**ANDREW J. BOBKOWICZ**, BEng'58, PhD'63,  
at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., on March 15, 2019.

**ROSS R.R. DIBBLE**, BSc(PE)'58,  
at Toronto, on March 28, 2019.

**FRASER MARTIN O'SHAUGHNESSY**, BEng'58,  
on May 13, 2019.

**RUTH PANKHURST**, BSc'58, MDCM'60,  
at Salt Spring Island, B.C., on October 31, 2018.

**BRUCE H. SELLS**, PhD'58,  
at Brockville, Ont., on November 10, 2018.



**PIERRE ARBOUR**, BCom'59, at Montreal, in July, 2018.

**JOHN T. CUMBERLIDGE**, PhD'59,  
in Ohio, on February 10, 2019.

**JOHN PHILLIP ESSEPIAN**, DDS'59,  
at Loudonville, N.Y., on March 16, 2019.

## 1960s

**PAULA GOOD CHAFFEY**, BSc'60, MDCM'64,  
at Bend, Oregon, on January 21, 2019.

**HARVEY J. FREEDMAN**, BSc'60,  
at Montreal, on January 1, 2018.

**DONALD BRUCE WILKIE**, BCL'60,  
at Montreal, on January 30, 2019.

**JULES P. CARBOTTE**, MSc'61, PhD'64,  
at Hamilton, Ont., on April 5, 2019.

**JOHN PAUL GOLIGHTLY**, BSc'61, PhD'68,  
at Sudbury, Ont., on October 14, 2018.

**FAYE WAKELING**, DipP&OT'62, BTh'77, STM'79,  
at Montreal, on November 30, 2018.

**DAVID LORNE GILDAY**, BEng'62, MDCM'66,  
at Toronto, on March 7, 2019.

**GRAEME L. HAMMOND**, MDCM'62,  
at Acton, Mass., on March 21, 2019.

**LINDA ABRAHAMSON**, BA'63,  
at Montreal, on February 20, 2019.

**NORMAN FEDER**, BEng'63,  
at Toronto, on November 27, 2018.

**JOHN W. GAMWELL**, MDCM'63,  
at Atlanta, Ga., on December 26, 2018.

**RENATA HUMPHRIES**, BA'63,  
at Toronto, on December 15, 2019.

**GUY JACOB**, BSc(Agr)'63,  
at Quebec City, Que., on October 3, 2018.

**LUCIA T. KOWALUK**, MSW'63,  
at Montreal, on February 1, 2019.

**CAROLYN OSBORNE**, BEd'63,  
at Victoria, B.C., on February 21, 2019.

**SAMUEL SHAM**, BArch'63,  
at Toronto, on July 20, 2018.

**IVAN A. CHORNEY**, BA'64,  
at Ottawa, on January 6, 2019.

**REGINALD S. LAVENTURE**, BSc(AgrEnvSc)'62, MSc'64,  
at Kanata, Ont., on February 15, 2019.

**HELEN NISKALA**, BN'64,  
at Vancouver, B.C., on November 30, 2018.

**DOUGLAS J. BLAND**, BEng'66, MEng'69,  
at Dunwoody, Georgia, on February 21, 2019.

**TIBIE FLANDERS**, BA'66, MSc(A)'70,  
at Montreal, on May 18, 2019.

**LLOYD J. MELANSON**, MLS'67,  
at Halifax, N.S., on December 24, 2018.

**PATRICK H. WOODSWORTH**, BA'67, MA'70, PhD'75,  
at Montreal, on January 18, 2019.

**MITZI DOBRIN**, BA'68, BCL'71,  
at Montreal, on March 20, 2019.

**JOSEPHINE E. MARSHALL**, BMus'69,  
at Falmouth, N.S., on January 21, 2019.

**JO-ANNE SIMPKIN**, Dip Ed'69, BSc(HEc)'69,  
in Spain, on March 12, 2019.

## 1970s

**JEAN-MARC FONTAINE**, MA'70,  
at Brossard, Que., on February 4, 2018.

**MICHAEL A. MCGUIGAN**, MDCM'70,  
at Toronto, on November 16, 2018.

**KARL FISCHER**, BSc(Arch)'71, BArch'72,  
in Vermont, on March 12, 2019.

**DANIEL J. LUCHINS**, BSc'71, MDCM'73, DipPsych'78,  
at Chicago, Ill., on May 2, 2018.

**EDWARD MCDUGALL ORWELL**, BEd'71, MEd'74,  
in Ontario, on March 14, 2019.

**MARY-MICHAELE SABIA LOUNDS**, BA'71,  
at Toronto, on February 13, 2019.

**TIM JAMES STUART**, BA'71,  
at Toronto, on April 7, 2019.

**BRIAN G. WRIGHT**, BSc'71, MBA'75,  
at Halifax, N.S., on February 21, 2019.



**DOUGLAS KINNEAR**, BSc'48, MDCM'52, played a pivotal role in the development of gastroenterology in Canada, creating the country's first gastroenterology division at the Montreal General Hospital, and serving as a founding member of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology.

Over the course of his long career at McGill, he served as the associate dean of admissions for the Faculty of Medicine. He also served for 37 seasons as the head of the medical team for the Montreal Canadiens, treating hockey legends like Jean Béliveau, Yvan Cournoyer, Guy Lafleur, Ken Dryden and Patrick Roy for a variety of ailments and injuries, helping the Habs to win 12 Stanley Cups on his watch. He died in Montreal on May 11, 2019.





**WILBERT KEON**, MSc'64, was once described by former Ottawa mayor Jim Watson as "the closest thing to a saint Ottawa has." A pioneering cardiac surgeon, he performed more than 10,000 open-heart surgeries. He was the first surgeon in Canada to install an artificial heart in a human. Early

in his career, he developed a safer method for performing bypass operations. He was the driving force behind the creation of the Ottawa Heart Institute and later, as a senator, played a role in the creation of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Public Health Agency of Canada. A member of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, he died in Ottawa on April 7, 2019.

**MICHAEL D'ARRISSO**, BEng'72, GrDipMgmt'81, on April 1, 2019.

**ODETTE RIGAUT**, MA'72, at Montreal, on April 28, 2019.

**GORDON JAMES GIBSON**, BA'73, MBA'85, at Montreal, on April 11, 2019.

**SURAIYA LUTCHMEDIAL**, DipEd'73, CertRInst'79, at Quispamsis, N.B., on April 15, 2019.

**DONNA TOLMATCH**, BA'74, BSc(Arch)'77, BA'78, at Montreal, on February 10, 2019.

**ROBERT WYLIE**, BSc(Arch)'74, BA'75, in California, on January 15, 2019.

**DANIÈLE GEOFFRION**, DipTr(F-E)'76, at Montreal, on December 24, 2018.

**HANS BULOW**, BE'77, at Kirkland, Que., on December 20, 2018.

**AMY JANCIS DURNFORD STEAD**, DipEd'77, CertSpEd'81, at Kanata, Ont., on February 8, 2019.

**MIN-WEN (ELLEN) HSIUNG**, MSc'77, at Montreal, on March 11, 2019.

**JEAN GAËTAN LÉGARÉ**, BSc'78, DPA'81, at Toronto, on May 12, 2019.

**RIMAS PAKALNIS**, BEng'79, on October 18, 2018.

## 1980s

**JOHN ROQUE FERNANDES**, MDCM'82, at Lake Erie, Ont., on April 18, 2019.

**STEVEN W. AVON**, MDCM'83, in California, on February 9, 2019.

## 1990s

**IAN MATTHEW WATSON**, BA'96, on April 16, 2019.

## 2000s

**CAMERON DAVIES**, BCom'01, on December 3, 2018.

**TIMOTEI CENTEA**, BEng'08, PhD'13, on March 11, 2019.

## 2010s

**WILLIAM PICKERING JONES III**, BA'16, on December 25, 2018.

## FACULTY AND STAFF

**ANTOINE ASSWAD**, retired faculty member, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, at Montreal, on February 5, 2019.

**WILLIAM J. GOLDSMITH**, BSc'67, MDCM'71, retired faculty member, Faculty of Medicine, at Montreal, on December 7, 2018.

**LEO RICHARD "RICK" HABER**, associate professor of pediatrics, in Mexico, on February 7, 2019.

**HOWARD HEITNER**, BEng'69, MBA'88, former director of operations, McGill Computing Centre, on February 17, 2019.

**NORMAN E. LEFEBVRE**, grounds person, Buildings and Grounds, at Kirkland, Que., on December 8, 2018.

**RICHARD JAMES MACKLER**, former faculty member, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, at Montreal, on February 2, 2019.

**J. LESTER MCCALLUM**, BA'37, MDCM'43, DipIntMed'49, former faculty member, Faculty of Medicine, at Ottawa, on January 14, 2019.

**DAVID D. MCWETHY**, retired faculty member, Faculty of Education, at Dover, Delaware, on November 17, 2018.

**EDWARD A. MEIGHEN**, professor emeritus of biochemistry, at Edmonton, Alta., on January 4, 2019.

**ROBERT NEIL MORRISON**, BEng'53, retired professor of management, at Kingston, Ont., on December 23, 2018.

**RODRIGUE POUJADE**, IT software developer, IT Services, at Montreal, on March 20, 2019.

**SANFORD SYLVAN**, former associate professor of voice, at Manhattan, New York, on January 29, 2019.

**MORRIS H. WECHSLER**, BSc'53, DDS'55, retired faculty member, Faculty of Dentistry, at Montreal, on March 3, 2018.

**JOAN A. WHITE**, MA'72, retired faculty member, Faculty of Education, at Montreal, on December 8, 2018.



## SYNCHRONIZED AND SENSATIONAL

In February, at the 2019 Canadian University Artistic Swimming Championships in Ottawa, the McGill Artistic Swimming Team did what it usually does—it won. In the 18-year history of the Canadian University Artistic Swimming League, McGill has earned the Gerry Dubrule Trophy as the country's top team an astounding 15 times.



DAN ROBICHAUD





McGill

Alumni  
Association



## Not all surprises are good ones.

Especially the ones that you aren't financially prepared for – like a root canal, an accident that prevents you from working, or if the unthinkable happens and a loved one is suddenly no longer there. That's why there are **Alumni Insurance Plans**.

They can help protect you against life-changing events that can happen at any stage of your life. Choose from Health & Dental, Term Life, Major Accident Protection, Income Protection and more. With Alumni Insurance Plans, affordable rates and financial security are a piece of cake.



Manulife

Get a quote today. 1-888-913-6333  
or [Manulife.com/mcgill](https://Manulife.com/mcgill)

Underwritten by The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company.

Manulife, Manulife & Stylized M Design, and Stylized M Design are trademarks of The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company and are used by it, and by its affiliates under licence. ©2018 The Manufacturers Life Insurance Company. All rights reserved. Manulife, PO Box 670, Stn Waterloo, Waterloo, ON N2J 4B8. Conditions, Limitations, Exclusions may apply. See policy for full details.

Accessible formats and communication supports are available upon request. Visit [Manulife.com/accessibility](https://Manulife.com/accessibility) for more information.

#2349628



# Get rewarded the McGill way

## Cash Back or AIR MILES




**No Annual Fee**

Exclusively for McGill Alumni

## Get the BMO McGill Mastercard®\*\*

- **EARN rewards your way:** 1% cash back or 1 AIR MILES®† reward mile for every \$20 spent\*
- **ENJOY added security** with Extended Warranty Insurance, Purchase Protection, and Zero dollar liability\*
- **SUPPORT McGill** and show your school pride with every purchase

Learn more & apply:  [bmo.com/mcgillalumni](http://bmo.com/mcgillalumni)

**BMO**  **We're here to help.™**

\*Terms and conditions apply. Visit [bmo.com/mcgillalumni](http://bmo.com/mcgillalumni) for details. ®†/™ Trademarks of AM Royalties Limited Partnership used under license by LoyaltyOne, Co. and Bank of Montreal. ®\* Mastercard is a registered trademark, and the circles design is a trademark, of Mastercard International Incorporated. Used under license.